

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Millers Falls Village Historic District

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: Roughly bounded by Bridge Street, Church Street, Crescent Street, East Main Street, and West Main Street.City or town: Montague State: MA County: FranklinNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide ✓ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

✓ A \_\_\_ B ✓ C \_\_\_ D

<u>Brona Suron</u>		<u>September 24, 2021</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>47</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>47</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

SOCIAL/meeting hall

GOVERNMENT/post office

EDUCATION/library

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/church-related residence

HEALTH CARE/clinic

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/manufacturing

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/extraction

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

EDUCATION/library

RELIGION/religious facility



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY/Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN/Victorian Eclectic

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick/Eastlake

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN/Renaissance

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION/BRICK

FOUNDATION/CONCRETE

WALLS/WOOD/weatherboard

WALLS/BRICK

ROOF/SLATE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague, Massachusetts, is one of the five villages in the town of Montague. Montague is located in the upper Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts. The village of Millers Falls spans the Millers River in the towns of Erving and Montague. The section of the village to the north of the Millers River is in Erving and the section to the south is in Montague. Bridge Street in Montague links the sections of the village and crosses over the Millers River. The Millers Falls Village Historic District includes the commercial and residential core of the village in Montague. The commercial core is located on East Main Street. The junction of East Main Street, West Main Street, and Bridge Street is the village center. The district includes the buildings fronting on Bridge Street, East Main Street, West Main Street, and Church Street (See Map 1). There are 49 commercial, residential, and institutional buildings within this area. Forty-seven of the buildings are contributing and two are non-contributing. The historic district's residential development is laid out on small lots on Bridge, Church, and West Main streets.

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Millers Falls is significant in the context of local and regional industrial history. The village developed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century as the local tool and paper factories grew and thrived. The Late Industrial Period (1870–1915) was a significant period of development for Millers Falls. The village developed as a result of the establishment and growth of the tool and paper factories that were established in Millers Falls. The industrial development located in the village in Erving to utilize the water power of the Millers River. While the mills were established in Erving, the residential and commercial core of the village grew in Montague and comprises the core of the nominated district (See Map 2).

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## **Narrative Description**

### **Landscape Setting and Features**

The village of Millers Falls spans the Millers River in the towns of Erving and Montague. Millers Falls' location on the Millers River is significant as the village developed as a mill village during the Late Industrial Period. The Millers Falls Village Historic District includes the core area of the village in Montague; across the Millers River in the town of Erving, north and east of the district, are the two extant factories that provided employment to many residents of the village. The village of Millers Falls is located in the northeast section of Montague, near the junction of two major state roads, Route 2 and Route 63. Millers Falls is east of Turners Falls and northeast of Montague Center, two of the other villages in Montague. Turners Falls and Montague Center are designated National Register historic districts.

The topography in the village of Millers Falls is flat as it is in the river valley of the Millers River, which is one of the 38 major tributaries of the Connecticut River; outside the village, there are rolling hills. The village's vegetation includes thickly set street trees and other scattered mature trees. Outside of the densely developed village area of Millers Falls and to the east of Route 63 the landscape is forested.

The Millers Falls historic district encompasses the buildings fronting on Bridge Street, East Main Street, West Main Street, and Church Street (See Map 1). The historic district's residential development is laid out on small lots with the houses close to the road on Bridge, Church, and West Main streets. The commercial core is located on East Main Street. The commercial buildings are set with limited front and side setbacks. The storefronts are located with zero setbacks on the back side of the sidewalk. The junction of East Main Street, West Main Street, and Bridge Street is the village center.

The Millers Falls Village Historic District's architecture remains intact and is representative of a lively period of history during the Late Industrial Period. There are a number of homes with Victorian Eclectic, Gothic Revival, Stick Style, and Colonial Revival architectural elements intact. The commercial core has an eclectic mix of Renaissance Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire architectural styles and elements. Millers Falls retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## Buildings

### *Residential* (1870–1910)

The Moses Newton Investment House, 6 Bridge Street, ca. 1870 (MNT.467), has no specific style but appears to be one of the oldest surviving houses in the historic district as the house is included on the 1871 Beers Atlas (Figure 1). The primary façade faces east (Photo 10). It is a side-gable-form house that is two stories high, three bays wide, and one bay deep with a one-story ell in the back. The foundation is stone. The first-floor windows of the main block of the house are two-part in composition with a large, fixed-light pane below a transom. These large windows called by some “Special Front” windows began to appear in number in the Connecticut River Valley region in the 1890s, suggesting that, here, they are a later alteration. Second-story windows are set close to the eaves and have 6/6 wood sash. The house is clapboard-sided and has an asphalt-shingle roof with a center chimney.

Almena H. Stebbins House, 18 Bridge Street, 1875 (MNT.478), is a modest 2½-story house (Photo 11). It is three bays wide and two bays deep with an ell in the back. It has full-length windows on the first floor of the main east-facing façade. There is a hipped roofed porch across the front of the first floor that has turned porch posts and baluster railings. The ell has an enclosed side porch with a hipped roof that was added later. The house has asbestos siding and vinyl replacement windows in all of the windows except for the attic in which the original wood 6/6 window remains. The foundation is painted brick and there is a center brick chimney.

Elisha Morgan (or Moore) House, 20 West Main Street, 1880 (MNT.502), is a 1½-story Gothic Revival-style house (Photo 12). It is a gable-and-wing in form. The primary north-facing façade has a steep front-gable roof that is colloquially referred to as a “lightning splitter.” The gable field of the façade has Gothic pointed-arch windows, and wide corner pilasters appear to have been covered over by vinyl siding. There is a wing on the west façade that is two bays wide and one bay deep and an ell attached to the south façade of the wing. There is a subsidiary entrance and garage door on the ell. The house has vinyl replacement windows and a new front door. The house has a brick foundation and a center chimney. The house is set on a high lot bordered by a stone embankment.

The Gurdon and Eleanor Edgerton House, 16 West Main Street, 1880 (MNT.499), is a 2½-story front-gable two-family house. It is three bays wide and four bays deep and faces north (Photo 13). It has a center chimney. There is two-story, wraparound porch with turned porch posts with scroll brackets at the eaves and square balusters in its railings on the north and east elevations. The two-family side-hall plan is horizontally divided and the first- and second-story entries are at the same location on the north-facing façade. The vinyl siding and replacement windows obscure other architectural details. The foundation is brick.

Isaac and Melita B. Hoyt House, 14 West Main Street, 1880 (MNT.498), is a 1½-story house under a steeply pitched, front-gable roof. The primary façade faces north. It is three bays wide

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and three bays deep with a one-story ell on the south elevation that extends beyond the main part of house to the east. It has a side-hall-plan entry beneath a small shed-roofed porch with a pediment over the door and spindled frieze (Photo 14). The door surround is trabeated with pilasters at each side and half-length sidelights. The house has 1/1 replacement windows and synthetic-shingle siding. The foundation is stone and there is a brick center chimney.

The Ellen R. Cole House, 14 Bridge Street, ca. 1882 (MNT.475), is one of several 1½-story, L-plan houses in the district (Photo 15). One bay wide and two bays deep, the main east-facing block of the house has a front-gable roof above a three-sided bay with 2/2 wood-sash windows. The east-facing wing has a porch that runs the length. The porch has a hipped roof with a pedimented entry. The porch is enclosed. The house has a slate roof and is vinyl-sided. The foundation is brick. The brick chimney is in the wing near the main block of the house.

The Thomas and Elnora Stratton House, 9 West Main Street, ca. 1884 (MNT.145), is the single Stick Style house in the district (Photo 16). This building is both unique in style in Millers Falls and is also in a highly visible location at the western gateway to the village. The main façade faces south. The main block of the house is 2½ stories in height, two bays wide, and six bays deep for a rectangular plan. It has a front-gable roof and a transverse gable on the west elevation. On the first-floor level of the main block's façade, there is a full-width, shed-roofed porch reached by double ramp stairs. The porch roof has two front gables that rest on open-work posts with wide capitals and tall bases. The posts are connected by arches. Within the gable field there is diaper work, and "Eastlake" open-, or punch work. Lively patterned clapboards have been laid in patterns on the house. There are 1/1 windows throughout the main block. On the third floor within the gable field of the south main elevation there is a three-window composition in which the center window is pointed. There is also a single pointed window in the gable field of the west transverse gable. There are projecting three-sided bay windows on the first and second floor of the west elevation. The foundation is brick. There is a carriage barn on the west that is attached to the main house by a two-story connecting wing. The connecting wing between the main block and the carriage house has a shed-roofed porch that rests on turned posts. The carriage barn has a side-gabled roof with a transverse gable centered on its south façade, and an arched, louvered window within its gable field. A cupola on the roof ridge has bracketed eaves and is topped by a finial. There is an attached two story shed attached to the west elevation of the carriage house. The shed has a barn door on the main south-facing façade (Photo 17).

The Emma and Milo Cowdry House, 12 West Main Street, 1884 (MNT.496), is a well-preserved example of one of several 1½-story Victorian Eclectic L-plan houses with elements of the Queen Anne style (on the porch) in the district (Photo 18). It has a one-story ell and a 1½-story attached carriage barn. The house has a slate roof and a center chimney. The north-facing front gable is one bay wide with one large window with a transom light on the first-floor level. The wing is three bays wide and two bays deep. The windows are 2/2 wood sash. There is a wraparound porch on the gable-and-wing main block of the house. The porch has turned porch posts with scroll-cut brackets and baluster railings. These are the only Queen Anne-like elements on the building and the only real architectural ornament. The first ell is one story and two bays long and has a secondary entry with a pent-roofed portico on single braces. There is a carriage barn that is

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part of the property. It has a pent roof over an entry with double-leaf door. The slate roof has a wide eaves overhang. The foundation is brick.

The Alfonso and Maria Foss House at 10 Bridge Street, ca. 1885, (MNT.471), is a 2½-story, gable-front house whose eaves make returns below an ornamental raking frieze (Photo 19). The house is three bays wide and three bays deep. There is a center brick chimney. The east facing main façade has a full-width, enclosed porch under a shed roof. There is a pediment above the entry to the porch. The porch was enclosed in an alteration. There are projecting, molded window lintels. The house has synthetic siding and vinyl replacement windows. The foundation is brick.

The Marvel House, 8 Bridge Street, ca. 1886 (MNT.470), is a two-story, vinyl-sided house with a front-gable roof (Photo 20). The house is three bays wide and four bays deep. There is a full-width porch across the east-facing primary façade. Half-length porch posts have been recently replaced, but Queen Anne-style scroll-cut brackets remain at the eaves above a solid railing. The scroll-cut brackets are seen in an historic photo of the house (Figure 1). The original 2/2 windows have been replaced with 1/1 vinyl windows. There is a three-sided bay window at the rear of the south elevation. There is a center brick chimney. The house has a brick foundation.

The Dr. Stillman P. and Inez Woodbury House, 22 West Main Street, 1887 (MNT.503), is a 2½-story house with a front-gable roof (Photo 21). It is one of several Queen Anne houses in the district that retain most of their detail work. The house has a north-facing main façade and is located on a high lot bordered by a stone retaining wall. It is three bays wide and three bays deep with a two-story ell, a 1½-story attached carriage house, and a one-story attached garage. There is a center chimney in the main block of the house. The main block of the house has a front-gable roof with a full-height transverse bay on its east elevation. The north (primary) façade of the house is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with a pediment over its entry, scroll-cut brackets, turned posts, and turned baluster railings. The gable of the north façade as evidenced by historical photos of the house is missing its king-post-truss motif, but retains its bargeboard with scroll work. Windows in the house have 2/2 wood sash. The transverse bay on the east elevation has a king-post-truss motif and bargeboard with scrollwork in its gable. The ell has a two-story porch on the east elevation. It has a pedimented roof on the second story over the entry bay and its roof is supported by turned balusters. The attached carriage house has a transverse gable on the east with a king-post-truss motif and scroll-cut bargeboard in its gable. There is a shed-roof addition on the east elevation of the carriage house that obscures a portion of its elevation. Roofs of the house are slate-covered. The foundation is brick. This building is currently undergoing state-tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation work in conformance with the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The house at 12 Bridge Street, ca. 1890 (MNT.473), is a well-preserved Victorian Eclectic house that has some Queen Anne-style decorative elements (Photo 22). It is 2½ stories tall, three bays wide and three bays deep, with a front-gable roof. The primary façade faces east. The Queen Anne details in the gable field, ornamental spindle work on the porch, and punch work at the front gable have all been maintained. There is decorative wood truss with punch work in the

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front gable field. The windows are 1/1 replacements. There is cap molding on the window lintels. The shed-roofed porch is full-width and has square baluster railings, scrollwork brackets at the eaves, and chamfered posts. The house is clapboard-sided and has a slate roof. There is a center chimney and a brick foundation. There is a two story porch on the rear west elevation of the house.

The Lee Weatherhead House, 24 Bridge Street, 1890 (MNT.484), has a front-gable roof with thin, boxed eaves with no returns (Photo 23). It is 2½ stories high, four bays wide, and four bays deep. It has an ell extension on the back. There is a hipped-roof enclosed porch at the first-floor level across the façade. The modest style house is asbestos-sided and has replacement windows, both of which obscure other architectural details.

The Edward M. and Charlotte (Lottie) V. Partridge House, 17 West Main Street, 1894 (MNT.144), is a 2½-story Queen Anne-style house with a front-gable roof and a transverse gable on the west side (Photo 24). It is three bays wide and three bays deep with a one-story ell in the back. There is a multi-light stained-glass window on the second-story level of the transverse gable and a diamond-paned window on the third-story level within the gable field. The front entry has half-length sidelight windows. There is a center brick chimney and a brick foundation. The house has vinyl siding, replacement windows, and the wraparound porch has replaced posts and railings. 17 West Main Street carriage barn, 1894 (MNT.500), is a 1½-story building with a side-gable roof on which is a transverse gable. There are two garage doors on the first-floor level and a window frame within the gable field that is covered with a wood panel.

The John J. Monahan House (later N. Augusta and John A. Taggart) House, 21 Bridge Street, 1895 (MNT.481), is one of few Colonial Revival-style buildings in Millers Falls (Photo 25). It is 2½ stories high with a side-gable roof whose eaves make full returns in the gables. There is a centered, transverse gable on the west (primary) façade. Extending from the north elevation of the main block of the house is a 2½-story wing. Across the west façade of the wing is a one-story porch that has been enclosed. The door on the west façade of the main block has a pedimented entry on triple posts above a solid railing. There are paired 1/1 replacement windows. In the gable field is a pair of Queen Anne multi-light stained-glass windows. There is a slate roof and one small chimney on the north side of the main rising through the roof peak.

The Bernard McNulty House, 4 Church Street, ca. 1895 (MNT.487), is a 2½-story house that is gable-and-wing in form, one of several gable-and-wing-form houses in Millers Falls (Photo 26). It is three bays wide four bays deep, and the wing is 1½ stories in height with an attached garage. Crossing both the main block of the house and its wing is a porch with Queen Anne details that has half-length turned porch posts ornamented with scroll-cut brackets at the ornamental frieze beneath the porch roof eaves. The posts rest on a solid railing. There is a center chimney on the slate-covered roof. The house has replacement windows and vinyl siding. The foundation is brick.

The Charles Amidon House, 13 West Main Street, ca. 1896 (MNT.497), is a 2½-story Queen Anne-style two-family house (Photo 27). It is four bays wide and five bays deep. It has a front-

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gable roof with full returns forming a pedimented gable field and a transverse gable on the west side. There is a projecting two-story bay on the south facing primary façade. There is a pair of wood-panel-and-glass entry doors on the front. The eaves at the southeast corner are supported by a scrolled console on the second-story level. The windows have projecting lintels. On the west side there is a paired window composition on the first-floor level. A hipped-roof wraparound porch replaces an original porch. The house is shingle sided and the two colors of the siding may reflect the previous clapboard and shingle materials. There is a center chimney and brick foundation. There are replacement windows.

Fred H. and Mary A. King, 19 West Main Street ca. 1897 (MNT.501), is 2½-story L-plan house (Photo 28). It is four bays wide and three bays deep. It is one of several L-plan houses in the district. The main south facing block of the building has a centered, three-sided bay window. There is a center chimney. The center sash of the bay window has diamond-shaped decorative lights in the upper sash. Across the wing is a shed-roofed porch with turned posts, scroll-cut brackets, and decorative panel railing. There are two entries to the house on the north (primary) façade—one in the wing and one in the main block. The south side of the wing's roof extends in a saltbox fashion to the first story. The roof is asphalt shingles and the house has a brick foundation, vinyl siding, and vinyl replacement windows. The basement level of the house is exposed on the east elevation because of the sloping grade.

The James and Addy May House (later Stebbins), 7 Bridge Street, ca. 1900 (MNT. 468), is a 2½-story, west-facing L-plan house with a front-gable section and a two-story wing (Photo 29). It has a center chimney. It also has an ell on its rear elevation. The main block of the house is three bays wide and on its façade has a hipped-roof porch on wrought-iron posts that are a later addition. It has a side-hall-plan entry with an ell that has a secondary entry under a hood on the south ell, which is set on Italianate consoles. The roof of the ell has no eave returns, but the gable end on the main west facing block of the house does. There is a center chimney in the main block of the house. There are vinyl 1/1 replacement windows throughout the house; however, a decorative circular window in the attic story that has been blocked up. The house has been altered by the addition of asbestos siding, though it retains its original slate roof and stone foundation. As evidenced by an historical photo of the house, the decorative circular attic window and the secondary entry hood are original to the house (Figure 2). The house has a simple one-story garage with a hipped roof (MNT.469).

Herbert E. and Eva Noyes House, 23 Crescent Street, ca. 1900 (MNT.490), is located at the corner of Crescent Street and Bridge Street (Photo 30). It is 2½ stories, three bays wide, and three bays deep. There is a wide front-gable roof and across the east facing primary façade is a shed-roof porch supported by half-length posts above a solid railing. A historic photo of the house reveals that this porch was added later (Figure 3). The original was a smaller shed-roof porch supported by wood posts that spanned between the second story windows and covered the door. There are replacement windows. The second story has two 1/1 sash replacement windows and one 2/2 sash window in the gable field, which may be original.



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Many of the houses on Bridge Street have common elements such as front-gable forms and Queen Anne-style porches with turned posts, railings with turned balusters, and scroll-cut brackets at the eaves. The James Browning House, 11 Bridge Street, ca. 1900 (MNT.472), preserves some of the original features (Photo 31). It is west-facing, Latin cross in plan, and has the tall proportions typical of many examples of the style. Two-and-a-half stories high, the house has a transverse gable on the south elevation. There is a side hall-plan entry behind a full-width shed-roof porch on which are two pediments, one of which marks the entry to the porch. Porch posts have bases and capitals and scroll-cut brackets at the eaves. The porch railing spindles are cut in a decorative pattern. There is an ell on the rear with an open porch that rests on posts. On the attic story there is a triple window composition with a lintel that is pedimented in the center. There is a slate roof. There is a center brick chimney and a brick foundation. There are 1/1 replacement windows and paired 1/1 replacement windows make up the third bay of the three-bay primary façade. The house has synthetic siding, which is covering or replaces detailed shingle work within the gable field as evidenced in a historic photo.

The Wright K. Phillips House, 15 Bridge Street, ca. 1901 (MNT.476), is multi-family housing complex consisting of three sections with five separate entrances on the south-facing sides of the buildings (Photo 32). This complex appears to be separate houses that were attached together. The west façade faces Bridge Street. It is the only multi-family building of this form in Millers Falls. The west section is 2½ stories under a side-gable roof with a south-facing, two-story porch. There are two entrances to this section of the building; one is on the first floor and the other is on the second floor and accessed through a stairway on the outside of the house. There is a three-sided bay on the first floor of the south-facing elevation of the western section of the complex. This west section is three bays wide by three bays deep. It has vinyl siding and replacement windows. The next block further east is 2½ stories under a front-gable roof. The entrance into that section is on the south-facing elevation and under a shed-roofed two-story porch. The eastern block is attached perpendicularly to the middle block and the porch is the length of the south-facing elevation. There are entrances on both the first and second stories. This section has a side-hall-plan entry. The entries are sheltered by a shed-roof porch on posts.

The Fred H. and Mary King House, 9 Church Street, ca. 1905 (MNT.489), is a modest 2½-story front-gabled house. It is three bays wide and three bays deep (Photo 33). It has a full-width one-story porch under a hipped roof on its street façade. The porch is supported by turned Queen Anne-style posts connected by a railing with a carved handrail. Similar to other houses in Millers Falls it has thin boxed eaves with no returns. On the south elevation there is a through-cornice shed-roofed dormer at the roof line. Asbestos siding and replacement windows are 20<sup>th</sup>-century alterations. There is a center chimney.

St. John the Evangelist Parish House, 5 Church Street, ca. 1910 (MNT.488), is a 2½-story Colonial Revival-style building under a slate-covered, pyramidal hipped roof (Photo 34). It is three bays wide and has pedimented dormers on the south, east, and west elevations. On the street façade, there is a glass-enclosed entry porch flanked by windows at each side with 8/2 sash. Entry to the porch is through a paneled door below a transom. The second story of the façade has a three-part window composition with 4/1 wood sash at each side of 8/2 wood sash.

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An open shed-roofed porch on the west is supported on posts. The house is vinyl sided and has replacement windows.

*Institutional Buildings*

The Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street, pre-1889 (MNT.483), is a one-story brick building under a shed roof whose south spandrel is filled with clapboards (Photo 35). The building is one bay wide and three bays deep. The three bays are separated by pilasters. On the street façade are two large, fixed-light storefront windows at each side of a center entry. The building currently houses the Millers Falls branch of the Montague Public Library. The town purchased the building in 1977 and moved the library there soon after. Before the library arrived, it was a plumbing store, and the back portion of the building was a garage for trucks. Prior to the plumbing store, the building was a market, Watroba's, which started here before moving to North Amherst.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 5 Church Street, ca. 1898 (MNT 143), was built by S.D. Munroe Company of Orange, Massachusetts, and officially dedicated in 1898 (Photo 36). The church was designed by the architect Timothy G. O'Connell, and St. John's Church in Millers Falls was one of his first designs. O'Connell (1868–1955) was an American architect whose Boston-based practice specialized in ecclesiastical design. The building is northeast facing. It is late Gothic Revival-style building with its central tower attached to the front of the building. The main block has a hipped roof with transverse gable. The center block of the church is 1½ stories high, and as it is on a sloping lot there is a fully exposed basement on the north and west elevations. On the east façade adjacent to the center tower is a shallow projecting pavilion. The tower is at the first-floor level has a single entry sheltered by a pedimented portico on posts. The second story of the tower has paired Gothic pointed-arch windows with arched muntins. The second stage of the tower is square and at the corner of its roof is a boxed spire. The third stage of the tower is octagonal with windows in alternating faces starting with one in the front-facing plane. The belfry is octagonal and alternates with double- and single-Gothic-arched openings; over the single arches are pediments (Figure 6). The spire is octagonal. The vinyl-sided church is unique in design in western Massachusetts.

The Covenant Presbyterian Church, 19 Bridge Street, 1949 (MNT.137), replaced the First Congregational Church, which burned in 1949 (Photo 37). The architect was T. Cranston Albro, III. It is a 1½-story Georgian Revival brick church with a front-gable roof. The main section of the church is three bays wide and five bays deep and the main façade faces west. There is a one-story west-facing wing that is four bays wide and three bays deep attached at the rear of the building. The primary façade of the church is a temple front supporting a squat tower. There are clapboards in the pediment and vertical beadboard paneling around the base of the tower as well as in the frieze. There is a projecting portico with colossal Doric columns. It rests on a low plinth made up of three steps and a concrete handicapped ramp. The second stage of the bell tower is a polygonal belfry with four arched openings with architrave surrounds at the top of which are

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keystones. The bell can be seen through the openings.<sup>1</sup> The church has a center entry with double-leaf doors beneath a fanlight whose mullions are turned. At each side are three-part windows with 6/6 wood sash under fanlights. There is a one-story wing on the south elevation with a center entry beneath a pedimented portico on braces flanked by 8/12 windows.

*Commercial Buildings*

The Augustus Ross Building, 41 East Main Street, 1878 (MNT.146), is a two-story Renaissance Revival brick commercial building with a flat roof (Photo 38). The main building is three bays wide and ten bays deep, and there is a one-story wing on the east elevation. The south (primary) façade of the main block is divided into three bays by pilasters. The pilasters are cast-iron storefront components that were manufactured by George L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Indiana as noted on the name plate on one of the pilasters. The two outer bays are storefront windows and the center bay is recessed and contains three doors and is accessed via granite steps. The storefront windows are fixed lights below two-light transoms. The doors are glass in the upper half and wood panels in the lower half. Second-story windows consist of three pairs of segmentally arched windows with granite sills. Ornamental brownstone panels separate the first and second stories. On the north elevation there is a two-layer corbeled brick cornice. Windows of the main block on the east elevation are only exposed on the second floor. Because of the slope of the lot, the basement is exposed on the building's west elevation. On the west elevation there are two segmentally arched doorways and three segmentally arched windows with granite sills (two double and one single), two of which have been partially bricked over and replaced with smaller replacement windows on the exposed basement level. There are six segmentally arched windows with granite sills on the first floor level and ten on the third floor level. The south-facing wing is three bays wide on its façade. It has a side hall-plan entry that is recessed and ornamented with a wood-paneled intrados. The secondary storefront windows of the wing are partially sealed. Above the windows is a lintel supported by a single cast-iron decorative pilaster at the southeast corner. The main building has two interior chimneys on the west. There is a stone cap on the perimeter of the roof. With the exception of the storefront windows, there are replacement windows throughout the building. This building is currently undergoing tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation work in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The Thomas O'Keefe Hotel, 38 East Main Street, ca. 1895 (MNT.147), is a 3½-story building with a hipped roof (Photo 39). This large-scale building was a replacement for the Millers Falls Hotel following the fire of 1895, and was established by Thomas O'Keefe around that year 1895. The building has a center chimney and brick foundation. It has hipped-roof dormers with paired, centered windows on three sides of the roof. All of the windows in the building are 1/1 replacement windows. The main block of the building is one bay wide and ten bays deep, followed by a three-story ell that is three bays deep and has a shed roof. The ell spans the width of the building. The building retains its tar paper siding on the third story on the east, south, and west elevations. The building lost its front and side three-story porches in November 1981 as

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<sup>1</sup> The bell is the original from the building that was consumed by fire in 1949.

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evidenced from historical pictures of the building. On the north or street/primary façade, there is a shed-roof portico on posts sheltering a double ramp staircase that leads to a center entry with a single transom light. The original four-bay façade has been altered so that there is only a single centered window at each story. There is a metal fire escape on the west side of the building. The building has a brick foundation and an asphalt roof. The basic form remains from the original building, though loss of the porches and application of vinyl siding now alters the building significantly. The east elevation has a one-story addition the last bay of which rises to two stories under a slightly sloping shed roof. The building is currently being renovated as part of a tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation project in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The exterior rehabilitation work includes installing a new roof, restoring the original window opening that have been blocked, replacing windows (not original) that are in poor condition, removing vinyl siding, and rebuilding the porches based on historic photos.

The John S. Powers Block, 26–28 East Main Street, 1897 (MNT.139), is a three-story brick commercial building with a parapet on the north (primary) façade (Photo 40). There is a name panel with "POWERS BLOCK" on the parapet above the decorative cornice and frieze. The Powers Block was built in 1897 by John S. Powers, a merchant in Millers Falls. It was one of the first commercial buildings erected in the village following the devastating fire of 1895, and is one of several significant brick commercial buildings in the village. The main block is three bays wide and five bays deep under a front gabled roof which is not visible from the front façade or in the front northwest corner of the building because of the wall that extends from the top of the second story above the roof. On the main north-facing façade, there is a commercial storefront on the first floor whose center door is flanked by display windows. The door and storefront windows previously boarded up were recently restored with new windows as part of the certified rehabilitation. On the second floor there are three segmentally arched windows. On the third floor there are two segmentally arched windows centered beneath the parapet and above the central window of the second floor. Beneath the eaves is a metal cornice with Classical Revival-style festoons in its frieze. At each end of the cornice are metal consoles, one of which retains its finial. On the west facing façade, the wall extends along the first two bays and projects out slightly farther than the rest of the west elevation for an approximate rectangular plan with the main facade. On the first floor there are two segmentally arched doorways. On the second floor there are two segmentally arch windows. The rear three bays of the west elevation are recessed from the parapet wall and in the first floor there are three half-length segmentally arched windows and three full sized segmentally arched windows on the second floor. The ell is five bays and has a wooden porch structure attached to the back of the building on the south elevation. The ell is 3½ stories high and has a side-gabled roof. There is a pedestrian entry, one half-length segmentally arched window, and three full-length windows facing the west elevation. There are three windows on the second-floor level, five on the third floor, and one in the gable field on the attic level. All of the windows in the building have rough granite sills. There are 2/1 and 1/1 replacement windows. The building has undergone a tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation included the replacement of the asphalt roof, repointing of mortar to match original, restoration of the storefront entrance, replacement of some of the windows in the building that were poor quality

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replacements, rebuilding the east side of the building to correct a repair done in the 1980s that was done incorrectly and collapsing, and rebuilding of the rear south porch.

The Ward Block, 28 Bridge Street, 1899 (MNT.138), is a commercial building located at the center of the Millers Falls village (Photo 41). It was built by H. J. Ward as a two-story building, and in 1930 a slate-covered mansard roof was added for a third floor, making it an eclectic combination of Queen Anne and French Second Empire styles. At the village's busiest intersection, it is a focal point of Millers Falls. The only building of its type in the area, it is three bays wide and three bays deep. It has a two-story ell extending from its west elevation. The building is clapboard-sided but on the first floor of the east façade, there is a cast-iron storefront with two storefront windows at each side of a recessed entry. The storefront windows are large plate glass with transom lights above the windows and the pair of entry doors is paneled in the lower half with glass in the upper half. On the south elevation of the main building, there is a side-door entry that is not recessed. The door is half paneled and half glass below a transom. A slight overhang between first and second stories of the main block of the building is ornamented with brackets. There are corner quoins at the second-story level, and paired windows set below a row of decorative wooden panels and brackets at the eaves. On the third floor, windows have small decorative dormers supported by paired brackets. Sash in the windows are 1/1 replacements. There is a secondary storefront on the south elevation of the ell (Photo 42). It is two bays wide and six bays deep. It has a center storefront with plate-glass storefront windows. A multi-light transom with decorative glass and a name plate that reads "Ward's" runs the length of this secondary storefront. The second-story decorative paneling below the eaves continues from the front part of the building to the flat-roofed ell. The west facing wall of the ell is six bays deep and has vinyl siding and an exposed brick foundation that is visible from the west side below the street level. The windows on the first floor of the west elevation have been replaced with smaller windows. Some of the second-floor windows have been removed.

30 East Main Street, ca. 1900 (MNT.491), is a 2½-story wood-frame commercial building under a front gable roof that has a parapet wall on its façade (Photo 43). The parapet has three window frames within the wall. The middle window is a 1/1 and the two side windows are only frames with no windows within the frames. The building is three bays wide and nine bays deep. At the first story of the façade is a center entry under a transom flanked by two storefront display windows. A signboard separates first and second floors of the façade. There are simple flat window surrounds and broad corner pilasters that rise to a frieze beneath the eaves. A skirt board frames the building at the base of its exposed elevations. A secondary entry on the east elevation is reached by a new stairs and a porch. Windows in the building are a mixture of 1/1 and 2/2 synthetic replacement windows. The building has undergone a state-historic-tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation included the replacement of clapboards that were beyond repair, the rebuilding of the front recessed store entrance, restoration of the original storefront windows, restoring and repairing the façade, and repairing the roof.

34 East Main Street, ca. 1902, is a 2½-story, wood-frame, mixed-use commercial and residential building under a front gable roof (Photo 44). The building is three bays wide and four bays deep.

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At the first story of the north-facing façade is a recessed center entry with double doors flanked by two 1/1 windows within the recessed area and two storefront display windows. There is a small hipped-roof overhang between the first and second floors on the north façade. A secondary entry on the east elevation is reached by a new stairs and a porch. Windows in the building are 1/1 sash replacement windows. There is a brick foundation and slate roof. There is a 2½-story wood-frame front gable garage and residential unit building in the back of the property (Photo 45). It is two bays wide and three bays deep with a garage door on the ground level of the north elevation and replacement windows. The main building has undergone a state-historic-tax-credit-advantaged rehabilitation that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The rehabilitation included structural repairs, rebuilding and repointing the brick foundation, repairing the slate roof, and reconstructing the first-floor façade to resemble the original look of the 1902 building.

The Equi Block, 25–29 East Main Street, 1902–1903 (MNT.140), is a two-story Italiante-style commercial building under a flat roof whose wide eaves overhangs are supported by brackets (Photo 46). The clapboard-sided building is four bays wide and two bays deep. On the south (primary) façade two of the storefronts retain their original features and two of the storefronts are bricked in. The two original storefronts have recessed doors flanked by glass storefront bays. Crossing above the first-floor storefronts is a narrow cornice ornamented with thin brackets. The first and second floors are separated by a narrow stringcourse and a second stringcourse is located below the eaves. The two stringcourses act as sills and lintels to paired windows with transom lights on the second floor. Arched porticos on braces above entry doors and octagonal windows on the south façade are alterations of the original first-floor storefronts.

Mackin's Block, 3 Bridge Street, 1903 (MNT.465), is a two-story brick commercial building with a flat roof (Photo 47). It has been converted from commercial to residential use. The building façade is three bays wide with brick pilasters separating the bays beneath a steel lintel. There are entries in the second and third bays. At the first-floor level, the commercial storefront windows have been blocked in and smaller windows inserted. The second story is three bays wide made up of paired windows under segmental arches that have contrasting concrete springings and keystones. Concrete forms the pilaster capitals at the first story, linking the ornament of the façade's two stories. There is a concrete building title block above the center bay below the cornice as well.

Joseph Rix Garage, 16 Bridge Street, 1919 (MNT.477), is a single-story early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building with a stepped parapet on the main façade before a low-pitched, front-gabled roof (Photo 48). The parapet acts as a form of advertising by making the building appear larger and more imposing than it actually is. The building is three bays wide and seven bays deep with a brick foundation and asphalt-shingled roof. The building has wood clapboard siding and replacement windows. At street level, the building has a center entry with two storefront display windows on each side of the entry. The storefront windows and the door have been replaced with wood-framed divided windows.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1868–1970

**Significant Dates**

1970 (Millers Falls Tool Co. plant in Erving closed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Timothy G. O'Connell, architect

S. D. Munroe Company, builder

T. Cranston Albro, III, architect

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Millers Falls Village Historic District, in the western Massachusetts town of Montague, in Franklin County, is historically and architecturally significant according to Criteria A and C at the local level. The district is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Commerce, and Architecture. The development of the village of Millers Falls was associated with the establishment and growth of the local tool and paper industrial mills between 1868 and 1970. The district developed and thrived as a residential and commercial community alongside the mills. It is locally and regionally significant, and the architecture of the village embodies this

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period of history. The village is significant in the context of the industrial history of Montague, the Connecticut River Valley, and western Massachusetts. The village grew as a result of the industrial development of Montague and nearby Erving, across the Millers River. It was one of a number of areas that grew and developed from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a result of the development of water-powered industrial development, including, also in Montague, the village of Turners Falls.

Millers Falls is one of five villages that comprise the Town of Montague. The two largest and most prominent are Montague Center and Turners Falls. The broader area known as Millers Falls is located in both the towns of Erving and Montague with the Millers River as the town boundary. The establishment of the Millers Falls Company, a tool manufacturer, on the Millers River in the Erving section of Millers Falls in 1868 played a key role in the history of the village. While the Millers Falls Village Historic District is in the Montague section of the village, the mill was located on the north side of the Millers River in Erving. The area in the historic district developed as the commercial and residential core of the village (shown in Map 1). East Main Street is the commercial center and Bridge, Church, and West Main streets are mostly residentially developed with houses on small lots. Most of the houses were constructed during the years following the establishment of the Millers Falls Company mill, from 1870 to 1910. The Millers Falls Company purchased a large area of land to build their mill, and the company subdivided the land and sold the lots following the establishment of their tool factory (Figure 9 is the plan of land that created those lots). Many of the people who purchased house lots and built houses during this period of time were employees of the mill. A small commercial village existed prior to the establishment of the mill, because it was on the stagecoach route and later the railroad. However, the town grew after the establishment of the mill and most of the existing commercial buildings were constructed after an extensive fire destroyed those on East Main Street in 1895.

The period of significance, 1868–1970, spans from the establishment of the tool mill through the thriving period of industrial history in the village, and ends when the tool company consolidated production in Greenfield and vacated the Erving complex. The period when Millers Falls was established was architecturally lively in New England. The district's architecture includes elements of many styles including Stick Style, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic, Italianate, and Colonial Revival. As a relatively small mill town with homes built for the mill and business owners, managers, and workers, Millers Falls' residences are mostly modest, single- and multi-family buildings that are vernacular versions of the period's popular styles. The village retains the integrity, feeling, and association to this period of late industrial development. The character and architecture of the village embodies the distinctive look of the industrial period. While some of the buildings have been superficially altered with vinyl siding or synthetic replacement windows, the village retains the architectural integrity, historic form, and physical character of the Late Industrial Period in which it was developed.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### Overview

Millers Falls is significant in the context of the history of local development through the architecture, integrity of location, setting and association with the development of a mill village during the Late Industrial Period. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Industrial Period in Montague and the Connecticut River Valley. It was one of a number of areas that developed and thrived during this period of time as a result of water-powered industrial development. The Millers Falls Village Historic District is historically significant according to Criterion A. The development of Millers Falls was associated with the establishment and growth of the local tool and paper industrial mills. The district developed and thrived as a residential and commercial community alongside the mills. The architecture of the village embodies this period of history.

Millers Falls is one of five villages that comprise the Town of Montague. The two largest and most prominent are Montague Center (NRHD 2001) and Turners Falls (NRHD 1982). Montague Center is located to the south of Millers Falls and developed earlier than Millers Falls and Turners Falls, developing in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century as a crossroads village around a green within an agricultural landscape and, by the middle of that century developing into a hub of commercial activity in central Franklin County with water-powered mills in the vicinity. The growth of the village was the result of the location being surrounded by productive agricultural land and the establishment of mills on the Sawmill River. At the peak, there were eight mills in Montague Center in 1794. The demands for greater power and improved transportation to support industrial expansion led to the decline of industry and the population in Montague Center. From 1830 to 1860, the population of Montague as a whole grew but the population of Montague Center further declined. The industrial growth shifted to Turners Falls and Millers Falls, which were better equipped to supply the needs of businesses competing in the expanding and evolving New England industrial economy. Turners Falls, which is to the west of Millers Falls and on the Connecticut River, was built mostly between 1866 and 1886 as a planned industrial community. A basic component of the plan for Turners Falls was to develop mill sites along the river to obtain water to power machinery from the new power canal and dam system. The rest of the village was laid out in a horizontal grid pattern with the main avenues labelled alphabetically and the cross streets numerically. Turners Falls was developed at approximately the same time as Millers Falls, but on a larger scale.

Millers Falls was built during a short period of time in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Additionally, most of the houses were constructed during the period after the land was subdivided and the lots were sold by the Millers Falls Company following the establishment of their tool factory in 1868. The residential lots of Millers Falls were drawn up in 1872 by R.C. Arms, a civil engineer, and the company sold off the lots shortly after the factory was established (Figure 5). Consequently, the residential construction was of similar scale, style, and materials.

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The commercial core of the village developed on Main Street, and was destroyed by a fire in 1895. The commercial district was quickly rebuilt after the fire, which resulted in the architecture being of similar materials and scale that is representative of that time period. Both the residential and the commercial structures have remained largely intact. The village of Millers Falls is significant because it remains an example of the Late Industrial Period village with many of its architectural assets still intact.

Millers Falls grew to be a lively business district in the early 1900s. While it was a smaller village than Turners Falls, records of the businesses that existed in the district illustrated the diversity and number that were present. In 1913, the businesses included auctioneer, bakery, barber, boarding house, boot and shoe sales and repair, carpenter, carpet sales, clothing and furnishings, confectionery and fruit, druggist, dry goods, fish and oysters, flour and grain, furniture, grocers, hardware dealers, hardware manufacturers, hotel, ice dealers, insurance agent, jewelers and watchmakers, lumber dealer, meat and provisions, millinery and fancy goods, news room and periodicals, painters and paper hangers, paints oil and glass, paper manufacturer, physicians, and telephone company.<sup>2</sup> Millers Falls had grown more extensive than the business district in Montague Center, which was less oriented toward commerce and more of a residential area.

Consistent with Criterion C, the architecture of the Millers Falls village embodies the characteristics of the time in history when it was built. The architecture includes examples of many styles including Stick Style, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic, Italianate, and Colonial Revival. As a relatively small mill town with homes built for the mill and business owners, managers, and workers, Millers Falls' residences are mostly modest single- and multi-family buildings that are vernacular versions of the period's popular styles. The village retains the integrity, feeling, and association to this period of late industrial development. The character and architecture of the village embodies the distinctive look of the industrial period. While some of the buildings have been superficially altered with vinyl siding or synthetic replacement windows, the village retains the architectural integrity, historic form, and physical character of the Late Industrial Period in which it was developed.

The development of the village of Millers Falls occurred as a result of the historical events, and in the context of economic development in Montague and the region. In 1838, Oliver Moore, a resident of the Erving section of Millers Falls, purchased 100 acres of land that spanned both sides of the Millers River, in Erving and in Montague. Moore envisioned the development of water power and the further growth of the village at this site, though at the time of his purchase the land was mostly unsettled and wooded. It took three decades for this industrial development vision to be realized by Oliver Moore's son James when the Millers Falls Company purchased his land and located its new factory from Greenfield, Massachusetts, to this location on the Millers River.<sup>3</sup> The expansion of the railroad during the late 1840s and early 1850s was also a

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<sup>2</sup> Franklin County Suburban MA Directory 1913, Compiled and Published by H.A. Manning Co. 231 Main Street, Springfield, MA 1913.

<sup>3</sup>John Taggart. *The History of Millers Falls* as transcribed by Ed Gregory, December 2010–January 2011, 36.

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major factor in Millers Falls becoming a hub of regional transportation and the perfect place to locate a factory at the railroad crossroad and on the river. Millers Falls developed into a compact village community because of the tool factory, and the residential development plan that was put forth by the Millers Falls Company. The commercial area served the needs of the village and many of the residents were employed by the Millers Falls Company and the Millers Falls Paper Mill, which was built in 1903 and functioned as a second major employer.

The earlier development in the village was small scale and had occurred because of the location at a crossroads of the stagecoach. Once the Millers Falls Company was established and the plan for the village developed and implemented, the commercial district grew and the residential neighborhoods were established. There was an enormous amount of growth during this time. There was a direct connection between the establishment and growth of industry in Millers Falls, and the commercial and residential development that occurred. This growth is documented by the census, town residential records, and historical maps that depicted development at different points in time (Figures 9, 10, and 11).

Criterion A: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Millers Falls Village Historic District is eligible at the local level under Community Planning and Development as a small-scale, intact, designed mill village. The residential lots were laid out by the Millers Falls Company under the supervision of civil engineer R.C. Arms shortly after the factory was established. The mill village was split on both sides of the Millers River, in Erving to the north and Montague to the south, with Millers Falls containing a grid of fifteen streets.<sup>4</sup> Parcels were sold by the company, many to families working in the factory. The village was fully built out by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and as a result of its rapid development, it retains, with a few exceptions (owing to earlier buildings lost to fire), a cohesive turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century character reflective of its planned nature. While historically the mill village straddled the Millers River in both Montague and Erving, the district encompasses the most intact portion of that historic settlement. The factories are located just north of the Millers River in the Erving section of Millers Falls and not in Montague. Of the four other villages in Montague—Montague Center, Montague City, Turners Falls, and Lake Pleasant—only Turners Falls (NRHD1982) shares a comparable history as a planned industrial community. It, however, is on a much larger scale—some 130 acres and 275 properties—and had several large facilities manufacturing a diverse array of products, from paper to cutlery to cotton. Despite its origins at the same time as Millers Falls, Turners Falls' history is distinct, arising out of the community's planner, Colonel Alvah Crocker, and others buying up stock in the defunct lock-and-canal company that had controlled the area for the purposes of Connecticut River shipping before the advent of the railroad, and putting the river and canal system to various industrial uses by attracting different manufacturing companies to the new site. This is distinct from Millers Falls, where the manufacturing company itself controlled the creation of the village.

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<sup>4</sup> Erving had a smaller grid of only seven streets.

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Criterion A: COMMERCE

The Millers Falls Village Historic District is eligible at the local level under Commerce for its intact late 19<sup>th</sup>-century commercial core concentrated around East Main Street, West Main Street, and Bridge Street. Originally the site of a stagecoach crossroads, following the establishment of the Millers Falls Company and the planned development of the mill village, the commercial core thrived, catering to the families in the surrounding neighborhood, and providing services necessary to the residents of the village, many of whom worked at the tool factory and later the paper mill.

A diversity of businesses existed in the village during the period of significance that illustrated the thriving nature of life in the village. See above.<sup>5</sup> Other records and accounts of life also detailed the thriving nature of the business center in the village. Both Millers Falls and Turners Falls, the other planned industrial village in Montague, had designated commercial corridors as part of their plans. The commercial corridor of Turners Falls, located on Avenue A, is notably grand, designed as a 100-foot-wide avenue lined by shade trees. While the businesses in Millers Falls catered to the needs of its residents, the offerings in Turners Falls were comparatively broader given the larger scale, and the numerous ground-floor commercial spaces occupying the largely three- and four-story masonry buildings were accompanied by banks, professional offices, and other examples of institutions common to a larger prosperous and aspirational community, including an opera house. Millers Falls' commercial corridor, given the size of the village, is modest in scale and notably distinct from Turners Falls.

Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE

The Millers Falls Village Historic District is eligible at the local level under Architecture. Built over a short period of time during the final third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the district retains a collection of largely modest but representative examples of domestic, commercial, and institutional building types and styles popular in this period, from Stick Style to Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic to Italianate. Many houses display only one or two elements of a style and are typical of vernacular interpretations of popular late 19<sup>th</sup>-century styles and forms in a working-class context. Of Montague's four other villages, only Turners Falls is comparable as a planned industrial center contemporaneous with Millers Falls. While the buildings of Turners Falls are contemporary with those of Millers Falls, the architecture of Millers Falls is distinct because it is more modest vernacular architecture than in Turners Falls. Millers Falls is a smaller scale planning industrial city and the houses are largely wood-framed single-family buildings, while commercial or mixed-use buildings include some masonry buildings but also wood-frame examples. Turners Falls is larger scale and consists of many brick houses and tenement blocks built by the bricklayers who also built the mills, while its commercial and mixed-use blocks are largely three- and four-story masonry buildings reflecting the larger scale of the village with its more numerous manufacturing facilities including a four paper factories and a cotton mill. Montague Center is an early New England village center that developed around a crossroads and containing types and styles dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, while Montague City has a

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<sup>5</sup> Franklin County Suburban MA Directory 1913, Compiled and Published by H.A. Manning Co. 231 Main Street, Springfield, MA, 1913.

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distinct origin relating to a small settlement by German immigrants who sought to take advantage of expanding river traffic on the Connecticut River in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and whose importance petered out in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and its architecture, while spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, mostly post-dates the original settlement. Lake Pleasant developed as a resort community in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and its architecture reflects a distinct Victorian cottage aesthetic. Millers Falls' distinct history as a small-scale planned industrial village undertaken by a single manufacturer makes it unique among the other villages of Montague.

## Developmental History

### Pre-Colonial and Colonial Periods (1500–1775)

The area that was to become Millers Falls in the town of Montague served as important seasonal fishing grounds for Native Americans, the Pocumtucks and the Norwottucks, during the Contact Period (1500–1620) and the Plantation Period (1620–1675). On the major north-south route of Native Americans following the Connecticut River Valley from Montague to Northfield, the Millers Falls area was used by Native Americans on both the Erving and Montague sides of the Millers River. The two rivers, Millers and Connecticut, served as transportation routes for the Pocumtucks and Norwottucks as well. However, little evidence of this early occupation has survived.<sup>6</sup>

The area that was to become Montague was originally part of a Connecticut River Valley settlement known as Swampfield. Twice established, Swampfield first appeared in 1673 as a six-mile-square plantation north of Hadley. Its settlers were to have seven years to attract a sufficient number of permanent residents who would build homes and hire a minister. Once surveyed, the plantation was named Swampfield. The identity of the first settlers is not known, nor has any record, such as an allotment plan, survived to indicate where they settled.

### Colonial Period (1675–1775)

The demise of the first settlement of Swampfield began at a great distance from the Connecticut River Valley when King Philip's War commenced in Rhode Island. Conflict spread to western Massachusetts in 1675 when King Philip and his followers took refuge here. Native American groups including the Pocumtucks and Squakheags joined King Philip's men and became openly hostile to settlers in the Connecticut River Valley. At first, the Bay Colony sent militias to protect settlers, but when local Nipmucks joined the conflict, an adequate militia protection was impossible, so settlers moved to Hatfield and Hadley, which were fortified with palisades. Swampfield, Northfield, and Deerfield, the three northernmost settlements, were abandoned.

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<sup>6</sup>*Reconnaissance Survey Reports on the Connecticut Valley and Montague*, Massachusetts Historical Commission.



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Northfield and Deerfield were gradually resettled between 1682 and 1685, but no one returned to Swampfield. The reason is not entirely clear because fighting during subsequent King William's and Queen Anne's wars in 1688–1697 and 1703–1713, respectively, was not directed at this region until the massacre of Deerfield took place in 1704. After 1713, the conflict was mostly small skirmishes and the region around Swampfield began to seem safer. The number of Native Americans in the area had plummeted, as those who were not killed moved to Canada or further west in Massachusetts. In 1713 residents of Hadley and Hatfield petitioned the General Court to reestablish Swampfield. The General Court gave the petitioners three years, this time, to have 40 families occupying their land, including a minister in residence. One family short, 39 men and their families signed on as Proprietors of the Plantation of Swampfield in 1714. The proprietors drew up a plan with house lots at each side of Main Street, and the plantation's common land on the north end of the settlement.

All of Swampfield's obligations set by the General Court had been met by 1718, so it was incorporated as the town of Sunderland. The first settlers to the common land that was to become Montague on the north end of Sunderland came in 1726 or 1727 to a section of it known as "Hunting Hills." Ebenezer Marsh and Samuel Taylor were recorded as the first two to purchase land from the plantation with the intention of building and settling permanently. Marsh and Taylor were followed by other families until Hunting Hills had grown large enough to become a separate parish or precinct within the town of Sunderland in 1751. The following year in 1752, a minister was hired, and two years later the Hunting Hills parish became the District of

Montague and a meetinghouse was erected in what is today Montague Center. Montague became a town in 1754. Although Montague was settled in the Colonial Period, there is no evidence that Millers Falls was settled.

### **Federal Period (1775–1830)**

Two transportation routes brought early activity to the area that was to become Millers Falls during this period. The east-west travel route through Montague along the Millers River was improved when construction of the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike was authorized by a 1799 Legislative Act. The turnpike opened a direct link from Greenfield to Boston. From Greenfield it traveled to the south of the Montague village of Turners Falls, crossed the Millers River at what is now Millers Falls, and continued east on the north side of the Millers River. The turnpike river crossing at Millers Falls was also a junction with the north-south highway from Sunderland to Northfield (now State Route 63).<sup>7</sup> The resulting crossroads offered an initial opportunity for commerce as a stop for stagecoach travelers.

Between 1810 and 1824 Martin Grout, a Pelham native, established a tavern at the crossroads on the Montague side of the Millers River. It is not well documented when Martin Grout's tavern was established, but by 1824 it was well established and became a community center of sorts

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<sup>7</sup>Ronald Dale Kerr, *The Turnpikes of New England*, (Pepperell, MA: Branch Line Press, 1997), An abridged edition of *The Turnpikes of New England, and Evolution of the Same through England, Virginia and Maryland* by Frederic J. Wood, (originally published Boston, MA: Marshall Jones Company, 1919) 37.

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with a hall on the second floor where meetings and church services were held. The crossroads took on the name of Grout's Corner. Travel by stagecoach was consistent and relatively frequent from Greenfield, through Grout's Corner to Boston and back. This travel pattern had been established before Martin Grout's Tavern existed. In 1810, one trip a week was made by the mail coach. The pace picked up in 1819, when there were two stages per week starting at 3:00 a.m., and arriving in Boston in the evening of the same day. A third trip was in place in 1824, when three stages left Greenfield per week, and Martin Grout's tavern was their first stop. The stagecoaches brought business to Grout in both directions.<sup>8</sup>

Grout built the first house on the Montague side of Millers Falls in 1829 on South Prospect Street. The house is now gone. The tavern continued to operate until it burned down in the 1860s.

**Early Industrial Period (1830–1870)**

In Millers Falls, industrial development was driven by the availability of land on the river and the arrival of the railroad. In 1838, Oliver Moore, a resident of Erving, purchased 100 acres of land spanning the Millers River in Erving and Montague. Moore envisioned the development of water power and the growth of a village at this site. At the time of his purchase, the land was mostly wooded and undeveloped. Although it took longer to develop than Oliver Moore had anticipated, this 100 acres ultimately played a critical role in the development of the village of Millers Falls. On June 7, 1848, Oliver Moore sold the land to his son James, an Erving farmer, and later (in the late 1860s) James sold this land and became an investor in the Millers Falls Company.

In 1848, the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad opened from Fitchburg to Grout's Corner. By 1850, the western leg of the Fitchburg Railroad known as the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad was extended from Grout's Corner to Brattleboro, Vermont. Two years later, in 1852, a second branch connected Grout's Corner with Greenfield. For another decade there was no industrial development at Grout's Corner, but some residential and commercial development began to occur on both sides of the Millers River during this period.

A post office was added to Grout's Corner in 1847 and additional housing on Grand Avenue outside the district was built in the 1840s spurred by, and likely associated with, the railroad. Several of the men who worked on construction of the railroad stayed on to live in Grout's Corner and build buildings in Millers Falls. Among them were Thomas O'Keefe (O'Keefe Hotel, 38 East Main Street, 1897) and the Moran brothers, John and Patrick (3 Bridge Street, the Mackin Block of 1903).

The railroad link to Greenfield had important implications to the growth and development of Grout's Corner. During the 1860s, facilitated by the extension of a branch of the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad, Levi J. Gunn and Charles H. Amidon started a company to manufacture

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<sup>8</sup>Edward Pearson Pressey, *The History of Montague: a Typical Puritan Town*, (Montague, MA: New Clairvaux Press, 1910), 139.

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clothes wringers located in Greenfield called Gunn and Amidon. In 1865, they added the manufacture of bit braces, a hand tool with a bit to drill holes, to their company. A fire at the Greenfield factory and inadequate water power compelled them to relocate. With the financial backing of a lumberman Henry L. Pratt, they decided to move their company to the Erving side of Millers Falls. In 1868, a new corporation was formed under the name of the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company, with Mr. Pratt as the President and Mr. Gunn as the Treasurer. Mr. Amidon withdrew and moved to Buffalo, New York. Through his ownership of the land that was used for the factory, James Moore became one of the major investors in the company.<sup>9</sup> James Moore's land was well suited for the development of a factory. It encompassed 100 acres of wooded land located on a sharp curve in the river that allowed for the construction of a mill canal across the peninsula-shaped land where the factory was constructed. From the beginning, the company's directors intended to not only build a factory, but to also develop an industrial site because there would be a surplus of waterpower. The organizers estimated Millers Falls Manufacturing would need one-fourth of the output of the dam and expected other businesses would purchase the rest. Additionally, the company developed their extra land for residential real estate. The site where the factory was built was already home to a blacksmith shop and a saw mill, and in October 1868 work to develop the site was underway.<sup>10</sup>

The company manufactured hand drills, breast drills, bit braces and tool holders. Grout's Corner became known as Millers Falls after the founding of the company, but the specific date is not well documented. In 1873, the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company merged with Backus Vice Company in 1873 and changed its name to Millers Falls Company.<sup>11</sup>

In anticipation of the industrial development and the need for a road to connect the two sides of the village, in 1868, James Moore petitioned the Franklin County Commissioners to lay out Bridge Street and build a bridge across the Millers River from Grout's Corner to the north side of the river where the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company was being built.<sup>12</sup> In 1869, the new tool factory, new Bridge Street, and a covered bridge across Millers River were constructed.<sup>13</sup> Bridge Street (called Grout Street in Erving on the north side of the Millers River) connected the tool factory to the railroad depot located in Millers Falls on the Montague (south) side of the river at the eastern end of East Main Street.

The growing community was evidenced by the increased community activities such as religious services. Meanwhile, in 1867 the First Congregational Church set up a mission school in Millers Falls where a minister came every two weeks to preach. In 1872, the First Congregational

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<sup>9</sup>*More About the Old Saw Mills*, Greenfield Gazette and Courier, Greenfield, MA, June 30, 1906, 12.

<sup>10</sup> Oldtoolheaven.com, Millers Falls Manufacturing Company: 1868 to 1873, 2017.

<sup>11</sup>Pearl B. Care, Anastacia, Burnett and Doris A. Felton with Rosa A. Johnston of the Erving Historical Society, *The History of Erving Massachusetts 1838-1988*, (Pioneer Litho Inc., 1983), 22.

<sup>12</sup>Franklin County Commissioners Records, Petition to the Franklin County Commissioners, Volume 6, Page 405, December 17, 1868.

<sup>13</sup>Franklin County Commissioners Records, Acceptance of the road layout by the Franklin County Commissioners, Volume 6, Page 410, June 1869.

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Church was formed and members met at Martin Grout's house which was in Millers Falls but outside of the historic district boundaries.

### **Late Industrial Period 1871–1915**

By 1871, industry and commerce were established, but workers' housing was not yet in place. Although greater Montague had sufficient population to staff the mill, and houses had been built on the Erving side of Millers Falls, additional housing near the site of the tool company was needed in order to attract a permanent workforce. So the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company had a survey and plan of land drawn up in 1872 by R.C. Arms, a civil engineer, to locate a residential district on both sides of the village.<sup>14</sup> The planned village was called "Millers Falls City" and included fifteen streets on the Montague side and seven streets on the Erving side. It was drawn with eighteen narrow, deep lots on each side of Bridge Street from the bridge to Main Street and eleven lots on the north side of East Main Street and West Main Street within the historic district.<sup>15</sup> Union Block, owned by the Millers Falls Company at the northeast corner of Main and Bridge streets was in place by 1872. The Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad bridge and an engine house were also noted on the survey drawings (Figure 8).

As early as 1872, the Millers Falls Manufacturing Company began selling lots in its planned "city."<sup>16</sup> Some investors bought lots that they turned around and sold, other investors built houses speculatively, and employees of the company bought lots and built homes for themselves. Several investors bought lots that they held without building on them.

Employees of the company who moved to Millers Falls at first came from surrounding communities. One of the earliest investors in Bridge Street was Moses Newton, whose house at 6 Bridge Street was one of the earliest because it is shown on the 1871 Beers Atlas (Figure 6) prior to when the "MF City" development took place. Newton, a miller from Greenfield, bought the first five lots on the west side of Bridge Street and then sold them off after building his house as the northernmost.

Among the investors on Bridge Street was James G. Brown. Brown and his wife Katherine were Erving farmers. They owned the lot at 3 Bridge Street, selling it in 1888, and the lot at 5 Bridge Street, which they sold in 1903.

James May was another investor on Bridge Street. He bought lots 12 and 13 from the Millers Falls Company in 1873.<sup>17</sup> James and his wife Addie May built the house at 7 Bridge Street between 1880 and 1887. James was an iron moulder at the Millers Falls Company and 19-year-old Addie was at home in 1880. James died young, and Addie sold the house to William G.

<sup>14</sup>R. C. Arms Civil Engineer Survey Plan, Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 2, pages 1–7, 1872.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., Plan Book 2, Page 5, 1872.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., Plan Book 2, Pages 1–7, 1872.

<sup>17</sup>Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 284, Page 56, May 28, 1873.

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Stebbins in 1887.<sup>18</sup> Stebbins was a clerk at the Millers Falls Company, then Superintendent from 1906–1919.

John D. Lynch was also an early investor. John D. Lynch bought lot 15 on the R.C. Arms Survey Plan from the Millers Falls Company on April 20, 1871.<sup>19</sup> John D. Lynch later bought lots 17, 18, 19, and 20 of the R.C. Arms Survey Plan from Moses Newton on August 9, 1877.<sup>20</sup> Moses Newton had purchased this land from the Millers Falls Company on November 7, 1874, by deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of deeds at Book 284 and Page 66. John Lynch sold lot 17 to the First Congregational Society of Millers Falls on April 29, 1886 (Book 385 Page 328), and the Congregational Society sold this property to Edwin Marvel on October 7, 1892 (Book 428 Page 389). A photo of the house at 8 Bridge Street, ca. 1886, in the town's historical archive is labeled as the Marvel House.<sup>21</sup> John and Johanna Lynch were Irish immigrants who arrived in this country in 1865 and 1855, respectively. John Lynch was a machinist for the Millers Falls Company and after 1895 the couple lived at 6 Bridge Street. By 1900 John Lynch had risen to shop superintendent and the couple owned the house without mortgage, suggesting the economic security that skilled machinists had at the company. The 1901 Town Census lists John Lynch as retired and in 1902 he sells the house at 6 Bridge Street to Henry Goff.<sup>22</sup>

Thomas J. Powers was an early investor buying the lots of 10 and 36 Bridge Street in 1872. He turned around and sold the two lots that year to Edward E. Conant, who in 1880 was a Montague dry goods merchant. The two lots in 1885 were sold by Hiram Conant to Maria Foss and her husband Alfonso who lived at the time in Erving.<sup>23</sup> Alfonso and Maria built the house at 10 Bridge Street ca. 1885. The house at 36 Bridge Street was built between 1885 and 1919, the year in which Maria died. Alfonso was an iron-moulder at the Millers Falls Company.<sup>24</sup>

Eleanor and Gurdeon Edgerton were early investors and residents on West Main Street. The 1880 U. S. Census lists Gurdeon as a shipping clerk, and the Franklin County Land records documents numerous land purchases from the Millers Falls Company by Eleanor of land along West Main Street. Two parcels of land were purchased from the Millers Falls Company and later sold to Thomas B. Stratton.<sup>25</sup> There is also an early reference to a land transfer for 16 West Main Street in the 1886 from Eleanor Edgerton to Alphonso Bartlett.<sup>26</sup> This land owned by Edgerton and also the adjoining land on Church Street is depicted as being owned by Edgerton on the map of 1871 Miller Falls. This map shows limited residential development but does show the Millers Falls Company.

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid., Book 396, Page 375, December 6, 1887.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., Book 284, Page 22, April 20, 1871.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., Book 352, Page 330, August 18, 1877.

<sup>21</sup>Howes Brothers Photograph, Millers Falls Public Library historic reference files and Montague Historical Society digital records.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., Book 496, Page 43, July 30, 1902.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid., Book 383, Page 264, August 31, 1885.

<sup>24</sup>*List of Residents in Montague*, Town of Montague, 1887-1894.

<sup>25</sup>Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 284, Page 64, August 25, 1874 and Book 284, Page 29, September 29, 1871.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., Book 306 Page 385, April 26, 1886.

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Thomas B. and Elnora (Nora) A. Stratton were also early investors in Millers Falls. The Strattons purchased 9–11 West Main Street in several transactions. In one they purchased Arms Survey lot number 1 from the Millers Falls Company on January 14, 1873. Thomas B. Stratton was born June 1, 1840 in Northfield, MA. His wife Elnora (Nora) Amanda Pratt Stratton was born in 1844 in Gill. Her mother was Lucy Pratt and her father was Samuel G. Pratt. Thomas and Nora were married on May 26, 1867. The 1880 U.S. Census documents Thomas B., Nora A. and Harry P. living in the same house. Thomas is listed in the census as a grocer. This is also well documented in historical photos and maps. The 1880 census lists Nora as keeping house and Harry at school. Thomas B. Stratton died July 6, 1910 at the age of 70. After Thomas died Harry took over the grocery business. Harry married Saidee E. Stratton. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Nora, Harry, Saidee, and a granddaughter of Nora, Mollie, living in the house. Harry died on September 2, 1928, at the age of 58 and Saidee Stratton died in 1932 at the age of 46. Although the grocery business did not continue after Harry's death, Mollie Stratton continued to live in the house on West Main Street until the early 1980s. Mollie Stratton was a teacher and died in 1994.

J. E. Conant was another early investor, purchasing lot 0 and then selling it to Thomas B. Stratton on May 27, 1873. He is also listed as a dry-goods shop owner on the 1871 Post Office Map of Millers Falls.

12 West Main Street was purchased by Milo Cowdry in three real estate transactions during 1882 and 1883 from Melita Hoyt and Alden Grout. A fourth transaction occurred on May 10, 1902, from A. T. Bartlett. Milo Cowdry is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as a mechanic and his wife Emma as keeping house. They had two daughters, Hattie (ten) and Flossy (two). Hattie attended school in 1880. Milo sold the house at 12 West Main Street in 1910 to Fred Ryther. The Town of Montague Annual Town Census documents Milo living in Millers Falls and working as a mechanic or overseer. He is last listed as living in Millers Falls in 1908 when he was 63 years old. He is later listed in the town census for Montague Center where he was listed as being retired.

14 West Main Street was transferred to Herman D. Wheeler (1900 U.S. Census lists him as a foreman at foundry) from Melita Hoyt on November 21, 1884. Melita Hoyt was married to Isaac H. Hoyt. Isaac H. Hoyt is listed as a house- and sign painter in Millers Falls in the 1874 Massachusetts Register and Business Directory. Hoyt is also noted as the owner of this property on the early Millers Falls Post Office Map. Isaac died of heart disease at the age of 67 on February 28, 1880. Melita Bonney Hoyt died on June 27, 1894 in Montague City.

17 West Main Street is noted as lot 4 on the Arms Survey and was owned early on by Hollis M. Slate, a Gill native, whose occupation is listed in the 1900 U.S. Census as "real estate." Slate transferred this property to E. M. Partridge on April 30, 1894. The 1900 U.S. Census lists Partridge as being 37 years old and a druggist. His wife was Charlotte (Lottie) and his son was Carl H. M. Partridge. Partridge's drug store was one of the businesses destroyed by the 1895 fire. The 1906 Montague Business Directory lists his businesses as druggist, jewelry, and insurance.

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The 1871 Beers Atlas map (Figure 9) shows that the Millers Falls Company had built a wing devoted to a vise shop following its merger with the Backus Vice Company. The map also shows the canal that powered the Millers Falls Company mills and that there were other industries located on the Erving side of Millers Falls along the canal. The C. H. Amidon Baby Carriage shops were situated upstream of the canal that fed the turbines of the Millers Falls Company as shown on the map. Amidon was to become a prominent figure in the commercial center of Millers Falls, building the S. H. Amidon commercial block. The factories were not located within the Historic District but thrived at this time and fed the growth that was occurring within the Millers Falls Village.

During this period, the Millers Falls Company increased its workforce as it added tools to its products. Many of the workers who came were from the area, as the factory had replaced one in Greenfield. Census records indicate that residents of Millers Falls had relocated from elsewhere in the region, the state, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. The Millers Falls Company's products included tools, toy cannons, ninepins, kites, and quilting frames. The Rose Brace and the #12 Breast Drill were introduced in 1873, and hand drills and mitre boxes in 1875. In the late 1870s, there was a need for more room at the factory and a second floor was added to the original building.<sup>27</sup> An 1886 photograph shows that there was a total of 48 workers, 7 women and 41 men. In 1888, the jig saw room was added, and in 1889 the production of wood levels began. A fire in 1890 destroyed the woodworking department, but led to the purchase of the lower shop, which was the site of the original blacksmith shop and a saw mill that existed on the property before the factory was constructed. The Lower Shop was the location of the Millers Falls Company's wood mill and woodworking department. Insurance plans for the factory from 1920 show details of the Upper Mill.<sup>28</sup> Demand for more room led to the construction of another building in 1898. During the years leading up to World War I, several other expansions were completed, which demonstrates that this business was growing and also that the village of Millers Falls was growing.<sup>29</sup>

With the industrial growth, the community grew and there was a growing sense of community cohesion, prosperity, and cultural interests. This was illustrated in cultural activities such as the forming of a number of musical groups. One example was the Moulders' Orchestra formed in 1879 and made up of John A. Taggart of 21 Bridge Street, A. D. Foss of 10 Bridge Street, William Shea, and Herman D. Wheeler, all of whom were moulders at the Millers Falls Company. Their orchestra continued until 1896.

Between 1871 and 1894, there was considerable growth that included residential buildings, commercial buildings, and several institutional buildings within the historic district. In 1894,

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<sup>27</sup>Pearl B. Care, Anastacia, Burnett and Doris A. Felton with Rosa A. Johnston of the Erving Historical Society, *The History of Erving 1838-1988*, (Pioneer Litho Inc., 1983), 22.

<sup>28</sup> Millers Falls Co. "Lower Mill" (Woodworking Shop), Town of Erving, Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, 184 High Street, Boston, Surveyed by W. W. Morse and Drawn by H. M. Condon January 10, 1913. On file at the Museum of our Industrial Heritage, Greenfield, MA.

<sup>29</sup>Pearl B. Care, Anastacia, Burnett and Doris A. Felton with Rosa A. Johnston of the Erving Historical Society, *The History of Erving 1838-1988*, (Pioneer Litho Inc., 1983), 24.



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Main Street was predominantly residential at its eastern end, and it was a mix of commercial and residential buildings on the west end. It held three large commercial blocks: the brick John H. Powers Block on East Main Street (1885), the wood-frame S. H. Amidon's Block on West Main Street (ca. 1885), and the brick Augustus Ross Block on East Main Street (1878). Somewhat smaller commercial buildings were the J. H. Johnson Block, the Reed Brothers' meat market, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter's shop, and John A. Taggart's livery stable. In the Powers Block were smaller stores: the Jenks and Mooney dry goods and footwear store and Thomas B. Stratton Grocery Store on the first floor and a meeting hall on the second floor. The businesses in S. H. Amidon's three-story block included, on the first floor, E. M. Partridge, druggist; W.F. Everett, jeweler; and the J. H. Sears grocery store. Mrs. Amidon's millinery store was on the second floor along with Dr. George A. Cook's office.

On East Main Street the Ross Block, 41 East Main Street, was built by Augustus Ross in 1878 (MNT.146). The Ross Block was transferred from the Millers Falls Company to Anna B. Ross, wife of Augustus Ross, on February 13, 1878.<sup>30</sup> By the mid-1890s, it housed the telephone exchange, Ward's Bakery (Herbert J. Ward), a restaurant, an insurance office, a barber shop, a cobbler's shop, the Miller's Falls Men's Club, a voting hall, living quarters for townspeople, and later the town library. W. A. Johnson's 2½-story wooden building had as tenants L.D. Elmer's Newsroom, the C.L. Cook variety store, William Mayhew's barber shop, and an apartment on the top floor. Thomas O'Keefe owned a three-story frame hotel, the Millers Falls House, which had 35 rooms, home to the O'Keefe family, two servants, and ten single men and women who worked in Millers Falls. A smaller building owned by M. Smith was occupied by milliner Mrs. Shay of Athol. The First Congregational Church built in 1871 was on the east side of Bridge Street. Two other residential streets east and west of Bridge Street, Franklin, and Front streets (outside the district) were also residential with approximately a dozen frame houses divided between the two streets.

Indicative of the level of the prosperous economy achieved during this period is the Thomas B. and Elnora (Nora) Pratt Stratton House, 9 West Main Street, ca. 1884 (MNT.145). The lot on which the house and barn were built was purchased by Thomas B. and Elnora P. Stratton in several deed transactions that took place between 1874 and 1878. Thomas was a Millers Falls merchant selling groceries, hardware, paints, and oils in the Union Block, now the site of the Equi Block at 25 East Main Street.<sup>31</sup> Stratton was active in Millers Falls, serving as the postmaster from September 2, 1885 until July 5, 1890 and as a member of the Order of the Masons from 1865. Like many families during the period, several generations shared the house. In 1910 Thomas, Elnora, their son Harry, and his wife Saidee lived here. Thomas Stratton died the same year, 1910, and Elnora continued to own the store with the help of Harry as grocer.

Like the Stratton House, a majority of the houses built in Millers Falls were single-family (even if multi-generational) and according to the federal census of 1900, more of them were owned than rented. The 1900 federal census also shows that there was only one boarding house in

<sup>30</sup>Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 335, Page 354, February 13, 1878.

<sup>31</sup>Shown as building No. 17 on the L. W. Burleigh Panoramic Map of Millers Falls, 1889.

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Millers Falls, and that a 2½-story knitting mill was at the head of Bridge Street at the entrance to the covered bridge. All but two of the buildings in 1889 were wood frame.

Construction that had begun in the 1870s continued through the 1880s and 1890s at what appears to have been a consistent pace. In response to the larger population, a firefighting force was established in 1882. Located in Erving'side, the Franklin Engine Company No. 2 was active when, on November 6, 1895, a fire broke out in a carpenter's shop on Main Street and quickly leveled most of Millers Falls' commercial center along with several residences and the Congregational Church at the foot of Bridge Street. The Millers Falls House, the John S. Powers Block, the Union Block, and S.H. Amidon's block were among the buildings that were destroyed. Only one of the large commercial blocks survived the fire, the Ross Block on East Main Street, and several of the smaller blocks survived as well. In addition to the commercial blocks, the post office and the house and barn of Millers Falls merchant Fred King were destroyed, as well as the house and barn of Michael Moran. The fire was particularly destructive because there was no public water supply in the village, and water had to be pumped from the Millers River. The Franklin Engine Company No. 2 had a jumper hose cart that required men to crank a handle in order to pump water from the river. To get the distance required to reach Main Street from the river meant the cranking was very hard and water pressure was too low to be effective.<sup>32</sup>

The commercial section of the downtown was rebuilt relatively quickly after the fire during the period from 1895–1902, made possible by the strength of the village's industrial and commercial economy and sufficient insurance. The Millers Falls Hotel was rebuilt and re-named O'Keefe's Hotel in 1897; the Powers Block was rebuilt at 26 East Main Street, ca. 1895; and the site of the Union Block was rebuilt as the Equi Block ca. 1900 by Julius and Sarah Equi, Italian immigrants, to house their produce store. The First Congregational Church was rebuilt at 19 Bridge Street (lost again to fire in 1949). Numbers 30, 34, and 37 East Main Street were rebuilt as wood-frame commercial buildings. The latter three buildings' owners leased their lots from the Central New England Railroad, who owned the land alongside its tracks on the south side of Main Street.

One of the first civic accomplishments following the fire was provision of a public water supply in 1896 with the establishment of the Millers Falls Water Supply District on March 18, 1896,<sup>33</sup> followed by the establishment of the Wheeler Hose Company that fought fires on the Montague side of Millers Falls. This company had 25 men and officers, and a jumper hose cart with 600 feet of hose. The name of the Millers Falls Water Supply District was later changed to Millers Falls Fire and Water District on April 26, 1927.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> *Turners Falls Recorder*. Montague Historical Society's files.

<sup>33</sup> Massachusetts Legislative Acts of 1896, An Act to Supply the Village of Millers Falls with Water, Chapter 150, March 18, 1896.

<sup>34</sup> Massachusetts Legislative Acts of 1927. Chapter 319, An Act Changing the Name of the Millers Falls Water Supply District to the Millers Falls Fire and Water District, and Providing for Adequate Fire Protection in Said District, April 26, 1927. The Millers Falls Fire and Water District existed until it was acquired by the Turners Falls Fire District on July 1, 1994, Massachusetts Legislative Acts, Chapter 5, An Act Providing for the Annexation of the

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The Millers Falls Paper Company was established in 1902. This established a second, large-scale manufacturing operation in Millers Falls. The Millers Falls Paper Company was located on the Erving side of Millers Falls. It was founded by four Holyoke residents who had previously all worked independently in the paper industry. The original group of inventors was small and remained like a family business for the first 47 years of existence. The ground was broken for the mill in July 1902, and the first paper, a fine 50% cotton-content bond, was produced in early April 1903. The factory operated on a combination of steam and electrical power. A 180-foot-long dam that spanned the Millers River at the plant site generated the electrical power that was needed for ten months of the year. The Millers Falls Paper Company grew to be known for producing high-quality cotton-stock stationery and specialty papers. The paper mill produced bond paper that was used for quality letterheads by many leading business firms across the country.

In 1897, the first village library, known as “The Village Library,” was started in two rented rooms. The library consisted of a collection of books that were mostly donated by interested residents. The library would eventually turn into the present Millers Falls Library. Mrs. Arthur Leucott was the first acting librarian and Mr. and Mrs. George Nims, Arthur Gordon, and Hebert J. Ward were the directors chosen for the first year. For the first six years the library struggled for funding. During that time it was supported through fundraising efforts that included community suppers, subscriptions, and a minstrel show. In 1903, the library was taken over by the town, and \$200 was appropriated for support at town meeting. By 1938, the town meeting appropriation for the library was \$2,801. In 1903, the library moved to the Powers Block, 26–28 East Main Street. In 1928, the library moved to the rooms that formerly occupied the Millers Falls Men’s Club. In September 1940, the library moved to the Ross Block, 41 East Main Street.<sup>35</sup> In 1977 to the Town purchased 23 Bridge Street and the library moved to that building.<sup>36</sup> Prior to being the library, 23 Bridge Street was a plumbing store and the back portion on the building was a garage for trucks. Prior to the plumbing store the building was a market called Watroba’s, which later moved to North Amherst.<sup>37</sup>

Following the reconstruction after the 1895 fire, there was an interest in improving the village as a whole, and in 1912 the Millers Falls Village Improvement Society was established. The organization’s objectives included cleaning-up the streets, garbage removal, setting up a skating rink, and maintenance of a park in the village. In addition, during the first decade of the 1900s, an interurban trolley system was constructed to Millers Falls. The trolley system connected Millers Falls to Turners Falls, Montague Center, Greenfield, and Amherst. Among the entrepreneurs who orchestrated construction of the trolley to Millers Falls was John A. Taggart

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Millers Falls Fire and Water District by the Turners Falls Fire District, July 1, 1994. “Water Franchise Areas in Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” by Paul E. Osborne Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, March 2016.

<sup>35</sup> Town of Montague 200th Anniversary Celebration Book 1754–1954, June 1954, Pages 92–93.

<sup>36</sup> Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 1532, Page 32.

<sup>37</sup> Personal account as told by Ed Sirium to the former Montague Library Director. Retold by current Montague Library Director Linda Hickman via email on May 12, 2017.

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of 21 Bridge Street. Taggart, who had been an active member of the Village Improvement Society, became supervisor of the line until it was abandoned in 1923. With a trolley system in place, Millers Falls' residents had, for a time, convenient public transportation in and out of the village that allowed them to live in a small community, but have access to the more urban centers.

There was a low turnover of residents on Bridge and Main streets, and the homes remained in the ownership of families whose members worked at the tool and paper factories. The Lynches sold the house at 6 Bridge Street to Henry M. and Hattie Goff in 1902.<sup>38</sup> Johanna Lynche died in 1907 and John Lynche remained in Millers Falls, moving into the O'Keefe Hotel in 1910. The hotel had been sold after O'Keefe's death in 1908, and converted to apartments thereby adding another housing option to the village. Henry M. Goff, like John Lynch, was a machinist and had previously boarded in the Lynches' Bridge Street house in 1895. Taking in boarders was a common practice as it added to the family income and boarders were usually single men or women, so an extra bedroom was all that was required.

With the steady population growth of residents who had relocated from other places in the region, Millers Falls had sufficient number of Catholic residents to warrant a parish. In 1897, St. John's Roman Catholic Church was built at 5 Church Street by the S. D. Munroe Company of Orange and was completed in 1898. It was dedicated as St. John the Evangelist. The Passionist Monastery of West Springfield provided priests for masses for several years. A parish house was added to the property at 5 Church Street around 1900.

Dr. Stillman P. Woodbury, MD came to Miller Falls in September 1887. He married Inez Bosworth that year, and brought her to a new house at 22 West Main Street (Figure 5). His office, meanwhile, was at 22 Bridge Street. Later he moved his office to the ell in their house on West Main Street. Dr. Woodbury practiced in Millers Falls for 50 years, from September 1887 until November 1, 1937. The Town of Montague Annual Town Census documents Dr. Stillman P. and Inez Woodbury, residency at 22 West Main Street for over five decades (he is listed in the earliest Street List available at the town clerk's office, which is 1895). Dr. Woodbury was also the first school physician in the village from 1905 until 1940, the surgeon for the Central Vermont Railways for many years, the medical examiner for about 25 insurance firms, staff physician at the Farren Memorial and Franklin County Public Hospitals, town physician for precincts 2 and 3, and a member of the Franklin District and the Massachusetts Medical Societies. From 1887 until he bought his first car, a 1910 Buick, he made house calls in a horse-drawn wagon, but he kept his horses for bad travelling conditions until 1920. The charge for a house call from 1887 to 1917 was \$1 and office calls were .50 cents.<sup>39</sup> Stillman and Inez lived in their house until Inez died in 1948 and Stillman was no longer listed as residing there two years later at the age of 92.

<sup>38</sup> Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 496, Page 43, July 30, 1902.

<sup>39</sup> Town of Montague 200th Anniversary Celebration Book 1754-1954, June 1954.

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### Early Modern Period 1915–1940

During the Early Modern Period, the Millers Falls tool and paper industries was strong. In 1920, there was a major expansion of the Millers Falls Tool Company when the West Haven Manufacturing Company of West Haven, Connecticut, was purchased. This added the Universal Hack Saw Blades to the Millers Falls line of tools. A company that manufactured levels was also acquired soon after. In 1926, the first Millers Falls portable electric tools were made. The Millers Falls Tool Company opened a second branch in Greenfield. In 1927, the plane line was added. In the late 1920s, there were 450 employees at the Millers Falls plant and 310 at their Greenfield plant. Twenty salesmen operated internationally. In 1931, the company merged with the Goodells-Pratt Company in Greenfield, which also manufactured machinists' tools (precision tools). At the time of consolidation, the Millers Falls Company closed all of its plants outside of Millers Falls and Greenfield. During the period from 1941 to 1945, World War II created a peak demand for Millers Falls Company tools. Many departments worked three shifts a day and the employment reached an all-time high. Precision tools were supplied to all branches of the armed forces. After the war, the company continued to grow as the building boom created an active market. New sales offices were established. With the increasing popularity of electric tools, the hand-tool line began to slacken.<sup>40</sup>

In 1919, Joseph Rix established a garage at 16 Bridge Street. He operated a car dealership and repair shop. Joseph and his wife Clara, both Vermont natives, lived on Newton Street in Millers Falls in 1920 and boarded Wilfred Davis who was the repairman in the Rix garage. This is noted on a photograph as Rix's second garage.<sup>41</sup> Prior to opening his Bridge Street business, in 1910 he and his brother, Lynwood, were both working as blacksmiths in their own business, suggesting that their first garage catered to horse-drawn vehicles, and that over the next decade Joseph made the shift to automobiles. Also reflecting the shift to the use of automobiles, the trolley system that operated through Millers Falls was discontinued in 1923.

At 9–11 West Main Street at the Thomas and Elnora Stratton House of ca. 1884, the 1920 U. S. Census shows three generations of the family in the house: Elnora (Nora), Harry, Saidee, and their daughter. Harry died in 1928, at the age of 58 and by 1930 Elnora, Saidee, and Mollie were sharing the house with three boarders. Saidee E. Stratton died in 1932 at the age of 46. Mollie attended the Normal School in North Adams and became a teacher in Montague. She continued to live in the Stratton house on Main Street until 1982.<sup>42</sup>

William G. and Stella Stebbins remained at 7 Bridge Street through 1930. William, having begun as a mechanic at Millers Falls Company, was company clerk in the 1920s. He retired in 1930.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>40</sup>Pearl B. Care, Anastacia, Burnett and Doris A. Felton with Rosa A. Johnston of the Erving Historical Society, *The History of Erving 1838-1988*, (Pioneer Litho Inc., 1983), 22.

<sup>41</sup> Millers Falls Library, Archives, Scrapbook.

<sup>42</sup> United States Census, 1920 and 1930.

<sup>43</sup> United States Census 1920 and 1930.

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In 1910, Milo Cowdry sold 12 West Main Street to Fred H. Ryther. Ryther remained in the house until 1917.<sup>44</sup> In 1917, he sold the house to Herbert J. and Annie M. Ward. The Wards were active members of the Millers Falls business and civic community. Herbert J. Ward was a baker and a merchant. The 1908 Town of Montague Annual Town Census includes H. J. Ward at 31 years old listed as a baker and living in Ross's house on Main Street.<sup>45</sup> A photo from the Montague Historic Society's collection shows Herbert Ward delivering bread from his horse-drawn carriage. In 1904–05 the bakery was located in the Ross Block at 41 East Main Street. The 1920 U. S. Census, lists Herbert, Annie, their son Victor (seventeen years old), and Herbert's mother Ella M. as living in their own home. Ella M. Ward was appointed as the postmaster after Thomas B. Stratton who served from September 2, 1885, until July 5, 1890. Ella M. Ward served in this position from July 5, 1890 until December 12, 1895. Ward was later reappointed as the postmaster on December 8, 1899 and the post office was moved to the Ward block. She remained in office until March 4, 1916. Annie and Herbert continued to own 12 West Main Street until 1953.<sup>46</sup>

Following World War I, in 1921, Millers Falls' veterans established the Belado-Crowley Post of the American Legion. Its meetings were held in the Ross Block and then in the Amidon Block. The legion formed a drum and bugle corps bringing organized band music back to Millers Falls.

### **Modern Period 1940–1970**

Many of the residential dwellings remained in the same family ownership as the population aged in place during this period. According to the *List of Residents in Montague* many of the village residents were still employees of the Millers Falls Company and Millers Falls Paper Company during this period. For example, the 1952 *List of Residents in Montague* includes Raymond R. (age 48) and Raymond A. (age 22) Bartlett both living at 24 Main Street and working at the Millers Falls Company. Robert J. Serrell (age 24) is listed as living at 18 Main Street and working at the Millers Falls Paper Company in the 1952 street list. Herbert J. Ward (age 74) is listed as a merchant and living at 28 Main Street with Annie Ward (age 72) who is listed as a housewife in 1952. The *List of Residents in Montague* also includes James Browning living at 27 Bridge Street and working for the Millers Falls Paper Company until the age of 66 in 1955.<sup>47</sup>

The Franklin County Registry of Deeds records reflect that Mr. Goff and his family continued to own the house at 6 Bridge Street until 1945 when his daughter sold it to Theodore and Mary Agnes Dale. The 1950 *List of Residents in Montague* includes Herbert T. Dale, 44, an employee of Millers Falls Paper Company, and Mary A. Dale, 42, a housewife as living in the house.

In an undated Howes Brothers photograph<sup>48</sup> from the Montague Historical Society's digital collection, 23 Crescent Street is labeled as the "Noyes House" (Figure 3). Herbert E. Noyes, 74,

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<sup>44</sup>Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 556, Page 196, May 3, 1910.

<sup>45</sup>Ibid., Book 633, Page 174, October 1, 1917.

<sup>46</sup>Town of Montague 200th Anniversary Celebration Book 1754-1954, June 1954.

<sup>47</sup>*List of Residents in Montague*, Town of Montague, conducted annually, various years.

<sup>48</sup>The Howes brothers, Alvah, George and Walter, from Ashfield, MA were commercial photographers who traveled western Massachusetts and beyond taking and selling photographs between 1882 and 1907. The most common type

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retired, and Leonard R. Noyes, 21, an employee of the Millers Falls Tool Company, are listed as living in this house in the 1940 *List of Residents in Montague*. In an earlier *List of Residents in Montague*, Herbert was listed as a laborer and living at the house next door.

An undated Howes Brothers photograph associates 8 Bridge Street (ca. 1886) with E. B. and Emma Marvel (Figure 1). The 1894 Town of Montague Annual Town Census indicates that Edward (or Edwin B. or E. B.) Marvel was 45 and a mechanic. He is still listed as living in this house in 1912 at the age of 62 and working as a mechanic. Later annual *Lists of Residents in Montague* indicate that he continued to live in his house with his wife, while he was retired. They are listed in the 1927 *List of Residents in Montague* when Edwin is 74 and Emma is 71. Emma Marvel was listed as living in this house in 1937 at the age of 81, and also in 1950 at the age of 97.

An undated Howes Brothers photograph associates the house at 11 Bridge Street with James Browning (Figure 4). The 1948 Town of Montague Annual Town Census includes James S. Browning, 60, an employee of Millers Falls Paper Company and Margaret C. Browning, 60, housewife, as the residents of this house.

The First Congregational Church in Millers Falls originated in as a mission school in 1867. In the years between 1867 and 1872 there were various visiting pastors who routinely conducted services. On January 25, 1872, the church was organized with 31 members. In November 1881 the first church was dedicated. This first church was erected by the people during the pastorate of Rev. Leonard S. Parker with the assistance of the Congregational Building Society. This church was totally destroyed in the fire on October 30, 1895. Two weeks later work began to rebuild. The new church was dedicated November 11, 1896. Various pastors served over the years. On March 3, 1949, the church was again totally destroyed by fire. Plans were soon being made to rebuild and the new church was dedicated in June 1950, but became Presbyterian.<sup>49</sup> The bell from the second church was saved and is now in the belfry of the current church.<sup>50</sup>

### **1971–Present**

The village of Millers Falls has struggled economically during the past 30 years. Although Montague as a whole has experienced an upward economic shift, it has happened more slowly in Millers Falls. After the factories and mills closed, the town and region has worked to redefine and reshape the economy.

The manufacturing economy of Millers Falls declined during the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. After Ingersoll Rand acquired the Millers Falls Company in 1962, and in 1970, operations were moved to Greenfield, and the facility in Erving closed and was put up for sale.<sup>51</sup> Later, all manufacturing

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of photograph is a family or individual lined up in the front of their residence. The Howes Brothers took thousands of photographs on dry-plate negatives at a time when few people owned cameras. The photos are linked to the property in which the photos were taken (Historic Northampton website).

<sup>49</sup>The date of the change in denomination from Congregationalist to Presbyterian could not be confirmed.

<sup>50</sup>*Montague 1754-1954*, Town of Montague 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

<sup>51</sup>“Beaten Track,” *Orange Enterprise and Journal*, September 9, 1970.

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operations were moved overseas. The Millers Falls Company's manufacturing building in Erving was purchased by the Renovator's Supply Company, a manufacturer and supplier of home remodeling products such as hardware and fixtures, in the 1980s. Although Renovator's Supply operated their manufacturing in the former Millers Falls Company building until the mid-1990s, the scale of the operation was smaller than during the Industrial Era. The factory no longer functioned as an employer for residents of Millers Falls. Renovator's Supply still owns the building and leases spaces within the building to various smaller businesses but there are dramatically fewer employees working on the site. The Millers Falls Paper Mill, which was also a large-scale employer that played a significant role in the development in Millers Falls, no longer operates. The paper mill operations were reduced in the 1990s and the mill shut down in 2000. All site activities and plant operations ceased on August 31, 2000. The building is currently vacant. With fewer workers at these two nearby employers, there were fewer people coming into the village and the commercial activities there decreased. During this time, a number of the commercial storefronts on East Main Street stopped being used and the buildings fell into disrepair. The buildings remained intact, but were the storefronts were boarded up.

The residential portion of the village did not change much during this time. Many of the residents aged in place or moved away. The homes were not dramatically altered or reconstructed. Some modifications occurred, such as synthetic siding and replacement windows appearing on a number of buildings, but many retained their form and character-defining features.

Since 2000, there has been significant investment in Millers Falls. The Town of Montague has led a community effort to revitalize the village. A streetscape project was completed in 2005. Additionally, an important component of this effort has been to bring the abandoned and underutilized commercial properties back into use. The Town acquired a number of the previously vacant commercial properties through non-payment of taxes. These properties were sold to a private development company that has undertaken historic revitalization.

In recent years, a number of the commercial and residential buildings on East Main Street have undergone or are currently undergoing tax advantaged rehabilitation work. The Powers Block (26 East Main Street), 34 East Main Street, and 30 East Main Street have been rehabilitated in accordance with the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. The Ross Block (41 East Main Street), O'Keefe Hotel (38 East Main Street), and Dr. Woodbury House (22 West Main Street) are currently undergoing tax advantaged rehabilitation work, the latter with state historic tax credits only.

The properties that are undergoing or have undergone rehabilitation were abandoned, underutilized, and some had fallen off of the tax rolls. The Town has taken a proactive approach to offering these properties to encourage a new era for the downtown, encourage the restoration of key buildings in downtown, job creation, and the return of attractive affordable residences. There are additional commercial vacancies and underutilized properties in Millers Falls. The inclusion of the Millers Falls Village Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places will recognize this important historic and cultural resource.



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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**     12.52 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

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**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.580194 Longitude: -72.495369
2. Latitude: 42.578246 Longitude: -72.492829
3. Latitude: 42.576662 Longitude: -72.493968
4. Latitude: 42.577660 Longitude: -72.496069

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see attached assessors maps (Map 1 attached).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the district were chosen to include a concentration of properties in the village core from the period of significance that retained their material and design integrity. The boundaries were chosen to include the range of uses typical of the period of significance being residential, commercial, and institutional dating 1871–1970.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Elizabeth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, with Ben Haley, National Register Assistant, and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director  
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission  
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us  
telephone: 617 727 8470  
date: October 15, 2017

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## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Millers Falls Village Historic District

City or Vicinity: Millers Falls

County: Franklin State: MA

Photographer: Elizabeth Giannini

Date Photographed: February 2016 and August 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo File Name	Address/Description, View
1 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0001.tif	Bridge Street Streetscape from in front of 8 Bridge Street, view to the South
2 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0002.tif	Bridge Street Streetscape from intersection with Crescent Street , view to the South

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<b>Photo File Name</b>	<b>Address/Description, View</b>
3 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0003.tif	Bridge Street Streetscape in front of 12 Bridge Street, view to the South
4 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0004.tif	Bridge Street Streetscape from in front of 24 Bridge Street, view to the North
5 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0005.tif	East Main Street Streetscape from in front of 41 East Main Street, view to the West
6 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0006.tif	East Main Street Streetscape north side of the street, view to the West
7 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0007.tif	East Main Street Streetscape from in front of 33 East Main Street, view to the West
8 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0008.tif	West Main Street Streetscape from in front of 14 West Main Street, view to the East
9 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0009.tif	Church Street Streetscape from in front of 5-7 Church Street, view to the North
10 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0010.tif	6 Bridge Street/Newton House, view to the Northwest
11 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0011.tif	18 Bridge Street/Stebbins House, view to the East
12 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0012.tif	20 West Main Street/Morgan House, view to the Southeast
13 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0013.tif	16 West Main Street/Edgerton House, view to the South
14 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0014.tif	14 West Main Street/Hoyt House, view to the South
15 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0015.tif	14 Bridge Street/Cole House, view to the Northwest
16 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0016.tif	9 West Main Street/Stratton House, view to the North
17 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0017.tif	9 West Main Street/Stratton Carriage House, view to the North
18 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0018.tif	12 West Main Street/Cowdry House, view to the Southeast
19 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0019.tif	10 Bridge Street/Foss House, view to the Northwest
20 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0020.tif	8 Bridge Street/Marvel House, view to the Northwest
21 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0021.tif	22 West Main Street/Dr. Woodbury House, view to the South

**Millers Falls Village Historic District**

Name of Property

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<b>Photo File Name</b>	<b>Address/Description, View</b>
22 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0022.tif	12 Bridge Street, view to the Northwest
23 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0023.tif	24 Bridge Street/ Weatherhead House, view to the West
24 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0024.tif	17 West Main Street/Partridge House, view to the North
25 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0025.tif	21 Bridge Street/ Monahan Taggart House, view to the East
26 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0026.tif	4 Church Street/ McNulty House, view to the Southeast
27 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0027.tif	13 West Main Street/Amidon House, view to the North
28 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0028.tif	19 West Main Street/Fred and Mary King House, view to the Northwest
29 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0029.tif	7 Bridge Street/May House, view to the East
30 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0030.tif	23 Crescent Street/Noyes House, view to the Southwest
31 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0031.tif	11 Bridge Street/Browning House, view to the East
32 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0032.tif	15 Bridge Street/Phillips House, view to the Northeast
33 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0033.tif	9 Church Street/King House, view to the Southwest
34 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0034.tif	5-7 Church Street/former St John Parish House, view to the West
35 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0035.tif	23 Bridge Street/Millers Falls Library, view to the Southeast
36 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0036.tif	5-7 Church Street/former St John Catholic Church, view to the South
37 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0037.tif	19 Bridge Street/ Covenant Congregational Church, view to the Southeast
38 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0038.tif	41 East Main Street/Ross Building, view to the Northwest
39 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0039.tif	38 East Main Street/Thomas O'Keefe Hotel, view to the Southeast
40 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0040.tif	26-28 East Main Street/Powers Block, view to the Southeast

**Millers Falls Village Historic District**

Name of Property

**Franklin, MA**

County and State

<b>Photo File Name</b>	<b>Address/Description, View</b>
41 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0041.tif	28 Bridge Street/Ward's Block, view to the West
42 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0042.tif	28 Bridge Street/side view Ward's Block, view to the North
43 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0043.tif	30 East Main Street, view to the Southeast
44 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0044.tif	34 East Main Street, view to the Southwest
45 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0045.tif	34 East Main Street/rear, view to the South
46 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0046.tif	25-29 East Main Street/Equi Block, view to the Northeast
47 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0047.tif	3 Bridge Street/Mackin Block, view to the Northeast
48 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0048.tif	16 Bridge Street/Rix Garage, view to the West
49 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0049.tif	36 Bridge Street, view to the Southwest
50 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0050.tif	22 Bridge Street, view to the West
51 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0051.tif	20 Bridge Street, view to the Northwest
52 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0052.tif	18 Bridge Street, view to the Northwest
53 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0053.tif	33 East Main Street, view to the Northwest
54 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0054.tif	37 East Main Street, view to the Northeast
55 MA_Franklin County_Millers Falls _HD_0055.tif	3 Church Street, view to the Northwest



Millers Falls Village Historic District

Name of Property

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## List of Figures

	Description	Source	Permission Granted or Public Domain
Figure 1	Photo of the Marvel House at 8 Bridge Street taken by the Howes Brothers Photographers.	Ashfield Historical Society	Permission Granted
Figure 2	Photo of the May House (later Stebbins) at 7 Bridge Street taken by the Howes Brothers Photographers.	Ashfield Historical Society	Permission Granted
Figure 3	Photo of the Noyes House at 23 Crescent Street taken by the Howes Brothers Photographers	Ashfield Historical Society	Permission Granted
Figure 4	Photo of the Browning House at 11 Bridge Street taken by the Howes Brothers Photographers.	Ashfield Historical Society	Permission Granted
Figure 5	Dr. Woodbury's House at 22 West Main Street taken by the Howes Brothers Photographers.	Ashfield Historical Society	Permission Granted
Figure 6	Postcard showing St. John's Catholic Church in circa 1910.	On-line postcard archive	Public domain
Figure 7	Postcard showing a bird's eye view of Millers Falls circa 1910.	On-line postcard archive	Public domain
Figure 8	A section of the R.C. Arms Survey Plan that is on file at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds.	Franklin County Registry of Deeds	Public domain
Figure 9	A section of the 1871 Beers Atlas which shows the early houses in Millers Falls.	FRCOG GIS Dept. Historic Digital Map Inventory	Public domain
Figure 10	A section of the Burleigh Panoramic Map of Millers Falls (1889).	On-line Historic Maps	Public domain
Figure 11	The section of the Burleigh Panoramic Map of Millers Falls (1889) that shows the occupants of the buildings.	On-line Historic Maps	Public domain
Figure 12	The Sanborn Fire Map of Millers Falls (December 1909).	On-line Historic Maps	Public domain

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Millers Falls Village Historic District  
Name of Property

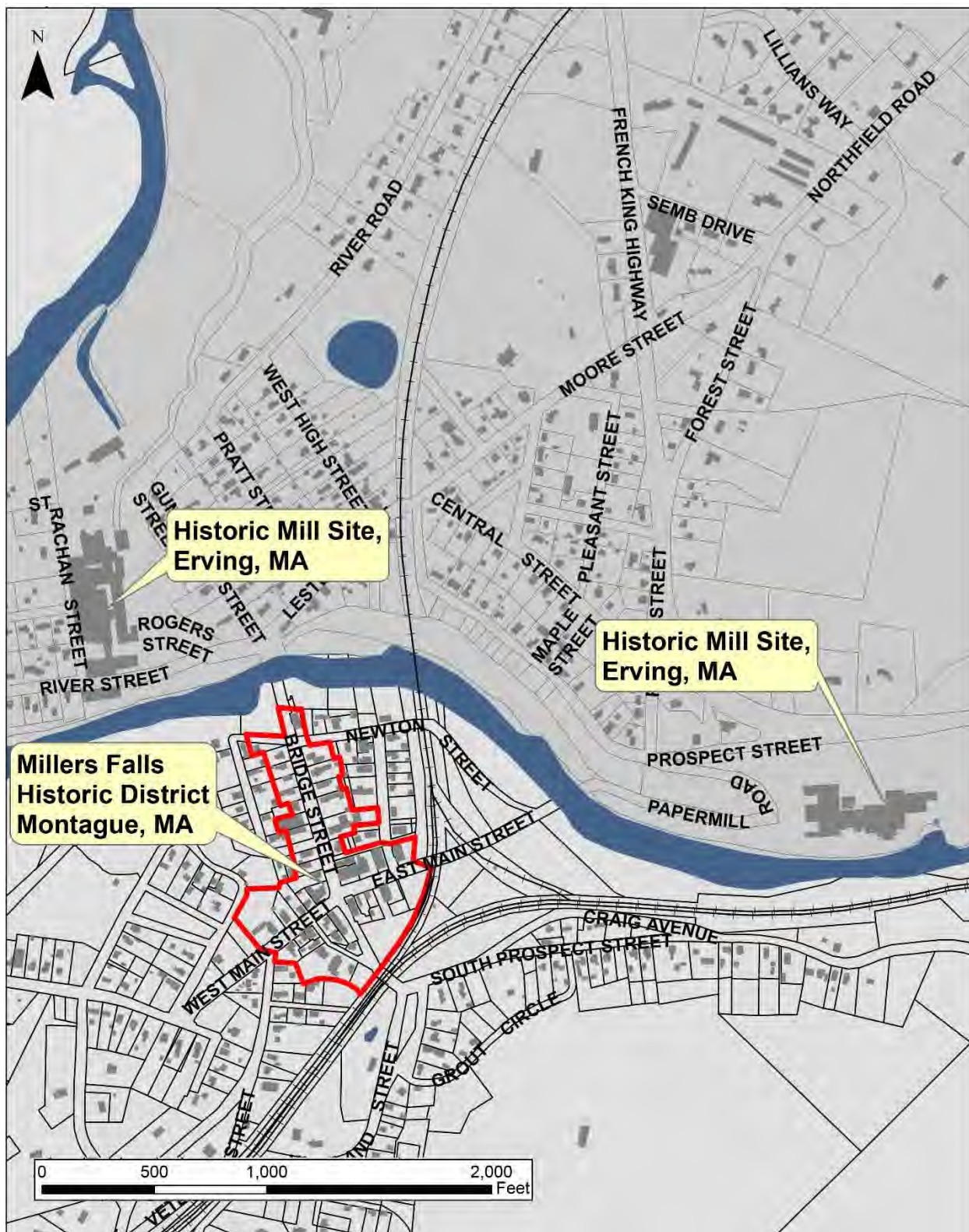
Franklin, MA  
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Map 1: Parcel map

Millers Falls Village Historic District  
Name of Property

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Map 2: Historic Mill Locations

**Millers Falls Village Historic District**

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**Millers Falls Village Historic District  
District Data Sheet**

Map-Lot#	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
29-0-010	MNT.465	3 Bridge St	Mackin Block	1903	Brick Commercial	B	C
29-0-011	MNT.466	5 Bridge St	store converted to house	ca. 1886	no style	B	NC
29-0-018	MNT.467	6 Bridge St	Moses Newton House	ca. 1870	no style	B	C
29-0-020	MNT.468	7 Bridge St	James & Addy May House	1880-1887	L Plan	B	C
29-0-020	MNT.469	7 Bridge St	Garage	1880-1887	No style	B	C
29-0-019	MNT.470	8 Bridge St	E.B. Marvel	ca. 1886	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-038	MNT.471	10 Bridge St	Alfonso & Maria Foss House	ca. 1885	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-037	MNT.472	11 Bridge St	James Browning House	ca. 1900	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-039	MNT.473	12 Bridge St	John D. Lynch House	ca. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-036	MNT.474	13 Bridge St	John A. Leland Hosue	ca. 1900	no style	B	C
29-0-050	MNT.475	14 Bridge St	Ellen R. Cole House	ca. 1882	L Plan	B	C
29-0-035	MNT.476	15 Bridge St	Wright K. Phillips House	ca. 1901	no style	B	C
29-0-048	MNT.477	16 Bridge St	Joseph Rix Garage	1919	Early 20th Century Commercial	B	C
29-0-047	MNT.478	18 Bridge St	Almeda Stebbins House	1875	no style	B	C
29-0-051	MNT.137	19 Bridge St	Covenant Presbyterian Church	1949	Georgian Revival	B	C
29-0-068	MNT.479	20 Bridge St	A. R. Parker House	1900	no style	B	C
29-0-068	MNT.480	20 Bridge St- rear		1900	no style	B	C
29-0-052	MNT.481	21 Bridge St	John J. Monahan (Taggart) House	1895	Colonial Revival	B	C
29-0-067	MNT.482	22 Bridge St	Andrew F. Kervick House	ca. 1887	no style	B	C
29-0-064	MNT.483	23 Bridge St	Millers Falls Library	ca. 1889	no style	B	C
29-0-066	MNT.484	24 Bridge St	A. Lee Weatherhead House	1890	no style	B	C
29-0-111	MNT.138	28 Bridge St	Ward Block	1899	Eclectic	B	C

Millers Falls Village Historic District

Name of Property

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Map-Lot#	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
29-0-120	MNT.485	36 Bridge St	Foss Investment House	ca. 1900	no style	B	C
29-0-123	MNT.486	3 Church St	Eleanor G. Edgerton House	1850	no style	B	C
29-0-119	MNT.487	4 Church St	Bernard McNulty House	ca. 1895	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-122	MNT.143	5 Church St- church	St. John's R.C. Church	ca.1898	Gothic Revival	B	C
29-0-122	MNT.488	5 Church St -house	St. John's parish house	ca. 1910	Colonial Revival	B	C
29-0-121	MNT.489	9 Church St	Fred H. and Mary King House	ca. 1905	Queen Anne	B	C
29-0-012	MNT.490	23 Crescent St	Herbert Noyes House	1900	no style	B	C
29-0-181		East Main St			vacant		
29-0-178		East Main St	rear lot vacant		vacant		
29-0-065	MNT.140	25 East Main St	Equi Block	1902-03	Italianate	B	C
29-0-176	MNT.139	26-28 East Main St	John S. Powers Block	ca. 1897	Commercial	B	C
29-0-116	MNT.491	30 East Main St	New London Northern Railroad Co.	ca. 1900	Commercial	B	C
29-0-063	MNT.492	33 East Main St	Carroll's Grocery Store	1960	no style	B	C
29-0-177	MNT.493	34 East Main St	Commercial building	ca. 1902	Commercial	B	C
29-0-179	MNT.494	34R East Main St		1900	no style	B	C
29-0-060	MNT.495	37 East Main St	Miriam A. Amidon	ca. 1895	no style	B	NC
29-0-170	MNT.147	38 East Main St	Thomas O'Keefe's Hotel	ca. 1895	Colonial Revival	B	C
29-0-112	MNT.146	41 East Main St	Augustus Ross Block	1878	Renaissance Revival	B	C
29-0-107	MNT.145	9 West Main St	Thomas & Elnora Stratton House	ca. 1884	Stick Style	B	C
29-0-126	MNT.496	12 West Main St	Milo and Emma Cowdry House	ca. 1884	Victorian Eclectic L Plan	B	C
29-0-108	MNT.497	13 West Main St	Charles Amidon House	ca. 1896	Queen Anne	B	C
	MNT.504	13 West Main St	Single bay garage		no style	B	C
29-0-125	MNT.498	14 West Main St	Isaac and Melita B. Hoyt House	ca. 1880	Victorian Eclectic	B	C
29-0-124	MNT.499	16 West Main St	Gurdeon and Eleanor Edgerton House	ca. 1880	no style	B	C

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Map-Lot#	MACRIS	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style/Form	Resource	C/NC
29-0-109	MNT.144	17 West Main St	Edward & Charlotte Partridge House	ca. 1894	Queen Anne	B	C
29-0-109	MNT.500	17 West Main St -rear	Carriage barn	ca. 1894	no style	B	C
29-0-110	MNT.501	19 West Main St	Fred H. and Mary A. King	ca. 1897	Victorian Eclectic L Plan	B	C
29-0-118	MNT.502	20 West Main St	Elisha Morgan House	ca. 1880	Gothic Revival	B	C
29-0-117	MNT.503	22 West Main St	Dr. Stillman & Inez Woodbury House	ca. 1890	Victorian Eclectic	B	C

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
Buildings	47	2
Sites		
Structures		
Objects		
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2</b>



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## Figures



Figure 1. The Marvel House at 8 Bridge Street in a Howes Brothers Photograph



Figure 2. The May House (later Stebbins) at 7 Bridge Street in a Howes Brothers Photograph

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Figure 3. The Noyes House at 23 Crescent Street in a Howes Brothers Photograph



Figure 4. The Browning House at 11 Bridge Street in a Howes Brothers Photograph



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Figure 5. Dr. Woodbury's House at 22 West Main Street in a Howes Brothers Photograph.



Figure 6. Postcard showing St. John's Catholic Church in circa 1910.

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Figure 7. Historic Postcard of Birdseye view of Millers Falls in circa 1910.



Figure 8. Section of the R.C. Arms Survey on File at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds.



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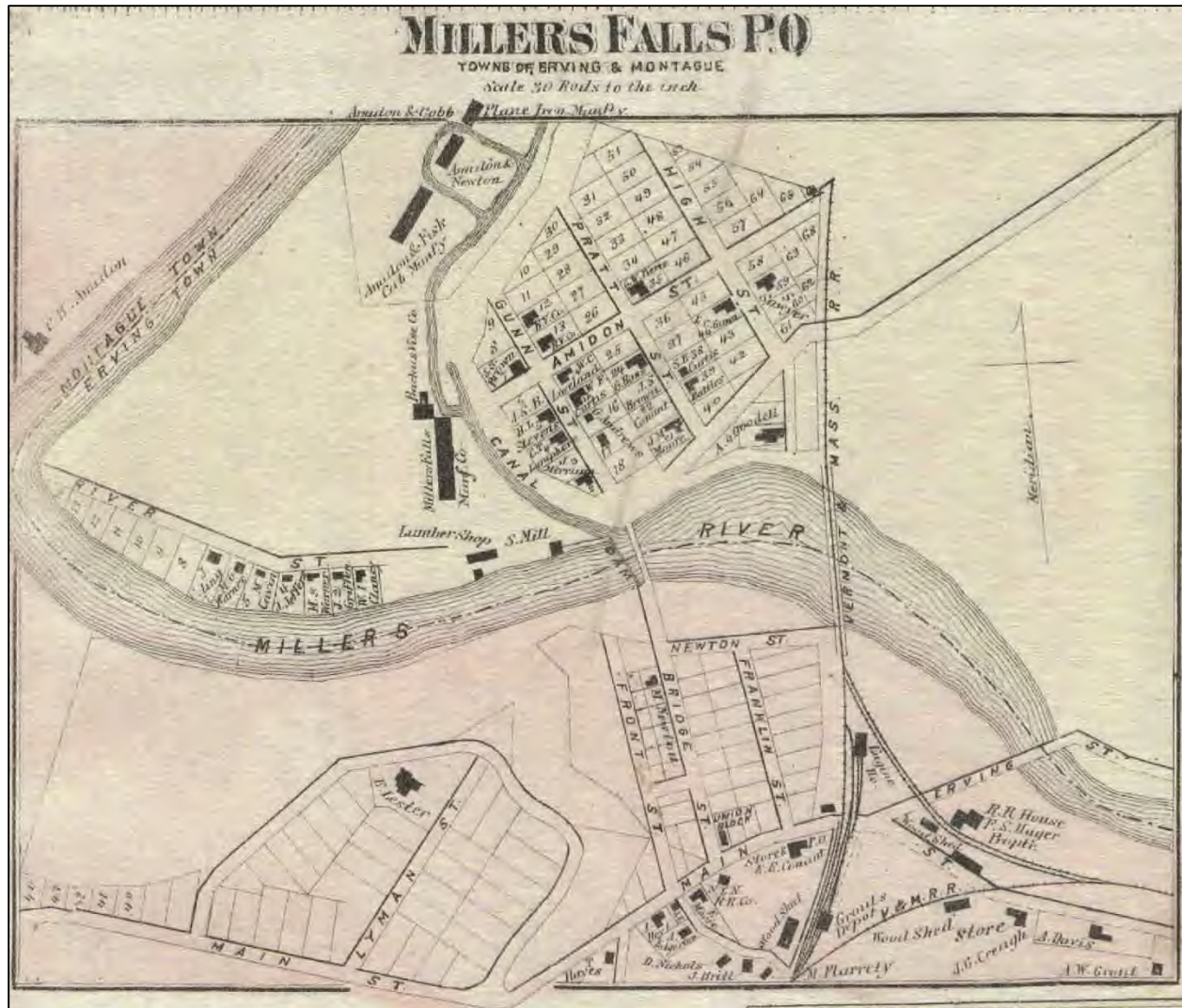


Figure 9. A section of the 1871 Beers Atlas which shows the early houses in Millers Falls.



Figure 10. A section of the Burleigh Panoramic Map of Millers Falls (1889).

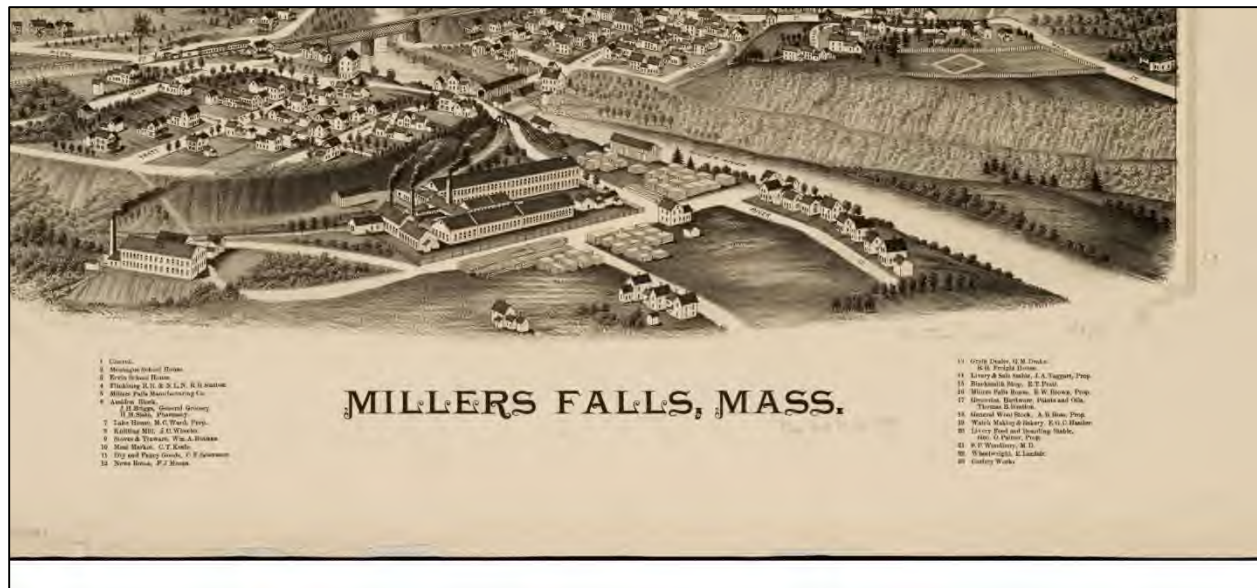


Figure 11. The section of the Burleigh Panoramic Map of Millers Falls (1889) that shows the occupants of the buildings.



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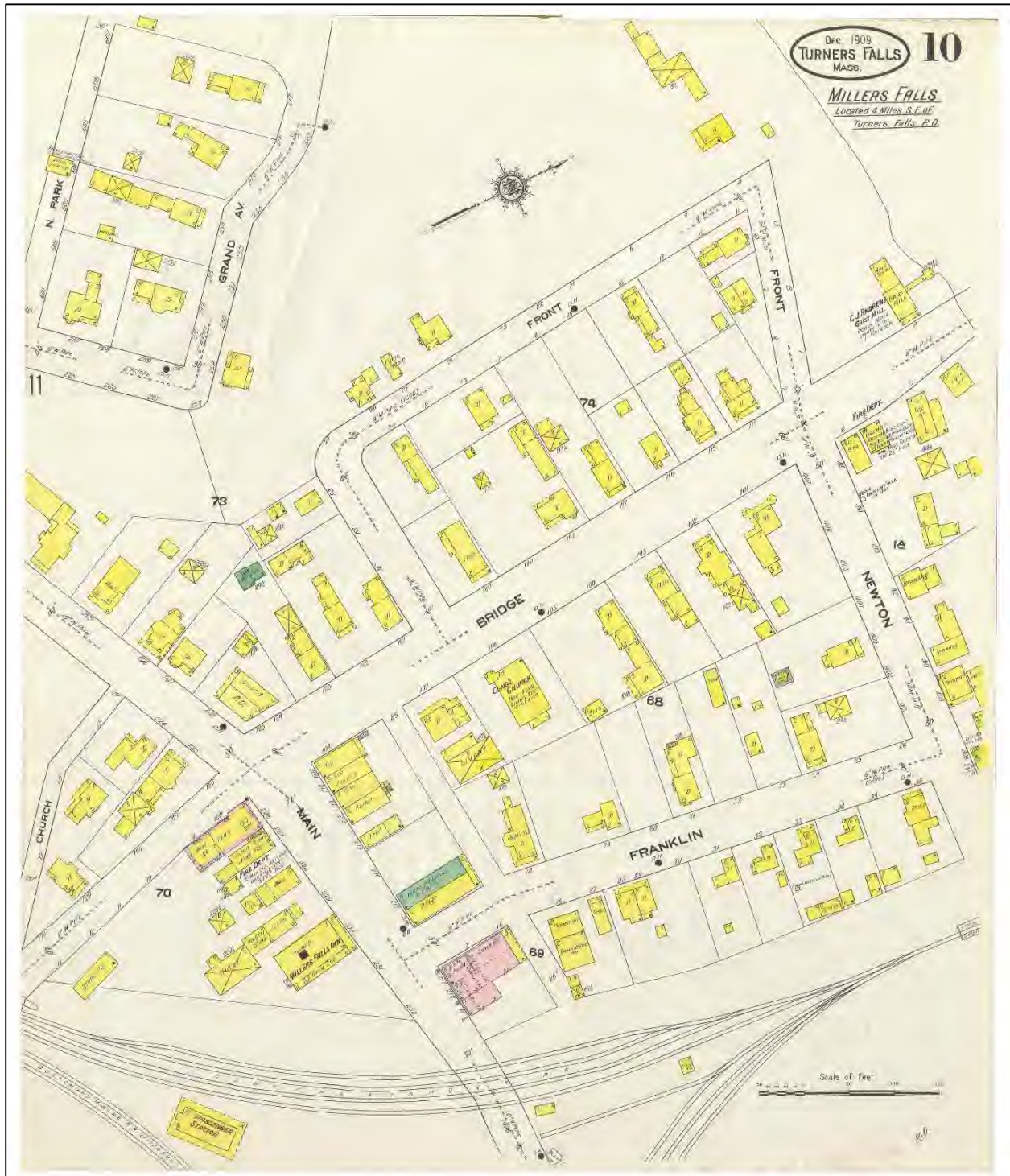


Figure 12. The Sanborn Fire Map of Millers Falls (December 1909).

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## Coordinate Map



Parcel map depicting Geographic Coordinate Points 1-4

1. 42.580194, -72.495369  
2. 42.578246, -72.492829

3. 42.576662, -72.493968  
4. 42.577660, -72.496069



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### Photo Key





## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



1. Bridge Street Streetscape from in front of 8 Bridge Street, view to the south



2. Bridge Street Streetscape from intersection with Crescent Street, view to the south



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



3. Bridge Street Streetscape in front of 12 Bridge Street, view to the south



4. Bridge Street Streetscape from in front of 24 Bridge Street, view to the north



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



5. East Main Street Streetscape from in front of 41 East Main Street, view to the west



6. East Main Street Streetscape north side of the street, view to the west



# Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



7. East Main Street Streetscape from in front of 33 East Main Street, view to the west



8. West Main Street Streetscape from in front of 14 West Main Street, view to the east



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



9. Church Street Streetscape from in front of 5-7 Church Street, view to the north



10. 6 Bridge Street/Newton House, view to the northwest



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



11. 18 Bridge Street/Stebbins House, view to the east



12. 20 West Main Street/Morgan House, view to the southeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



13. 16 West Main Street/Edgerton House, view to the south



14. 14 West Main Street/Hoyt House, view to the south



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



15. 14 Bridge Street/Cole House, view to the northwest



16. 9 West Main Street/Stratton House, view to the north



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



17. 9 West Main Street/Stratton Carriage House, view to the north



18. 12 West Main Street/Cowdry House, view to the southeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



19. 10 Bridge Street/Foss House, view to the northwest



20. 8 Bridge Street/Marvel House, view to the northwest



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



21. 22 West Main Street/Dr. Woodbury House, view to the south (August 2021)



22. 12 Bridge Street, view to the northwest (February 2016)

*Both Photos: Elizabeth Giannini*



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



23. 24 Bridge Street/ Weatherhead House, view to the west



24. 17 West Main Street/Partridge House, view to the north



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



25. 21 Bridge Street/ Monahan Taggart House, view to the east



26. 4 Church Street/ McNulty House, view to the southeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



27. 13 West Main Street/Amidon House, view to the north



28. 19 West Main Street/Fred and Mary King House, view to the northwest



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



29. 7 Bridge Street/May House, view to the east



30. 23 Crescent Street/Noyes House, view to the southwest



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



31. 11 Bridge Street/Browning House, view to the east



32. 15 Bridge Street/Phillips House, view to the northeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



33. 9 Church Street/King House, view to the southwest



34. 5-7 Church Street/former St John Parish House, view to the west



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



35. 23 Bridge Street/Millers Falls Library, view to the southeast



36. 5-7 Church Street/former St John Catholic Church, view to the south



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



37. 19 Bridge Street/ Covenant Congregational Church, view to the southeast (Feb. 2016)



38. 41 East Main Street/Ross Building, view to the northwest (August 2021)

*Both Photos: Elizabeth Giannini*



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



39. 38 East Main Street/Thomas O'Keefe Hotel, view to the southeast (August 2021)



40. 26-28 East Main Street/Powers Block, view to the southeast (August 2021)

*Both Photos: Elizabeth Giannini*



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



41. 28 Bridge Street/Ward's Block, view to the west



42. 28 Bridge Street/side view Ward's Block, view to the north



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



43. 30 East Main Street, view to the southeast (August 2021)



44. 34 East Main Street, view to the southwest (August 2021)

*Both Photos: Elizabeth Giannini*



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



45. 34 East Main Street/rear, view to the south



46. 25-29 East Main Street/Equi Block, view to the northeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



47. 3 Bridge Street/Mackin Block, view to the northeast



48. 16 Bridge Street/Rix Garage, view to the west



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



49. 36 Bridge Street, view to the southwest



50. 22 Bridge Street, view to the west



Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



51. 20 Bridge Street, view to the northwest



52. 18 Bridge Street, view to the northwest



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



53. 33 East Main Street, view to the northwest



54. 37 East Main Street, view to the northeast



## Millers Falls Village Historic District, Montague (Franklin Co.), MA



55. 3 Church Street, view to the northwest